



UNITED SOCIETIES
OF BALKANS GR

Faros tou Kosmou ESC Hosting Project



Coordinating Organization:
United Societies of Balkans
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Faros tou Kosmou
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About USB

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.

Thessaloniki

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 a 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



In the vicinity

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, North Macedonia, Turkey, Albania.

About Faros tou Kosmou

The Lighthouse of the World started its activity in 2004 and is located in Dendropotamos neighborhood, in Western Thessaloniki. Our goal, from the beginning, is the educational and social integration of Dendropotamos' young Roma. Thus, we focus on educating children in order to acquire knowledge, develop skills and specialize in things that each one of them is interested in or naturally talented. The long term goal is that they have a better life in the future. The learning cycle is endless so we are always looking for initiatives in order to create opportunities for our children to either develop their existing skills or discover new ones.



Personal Project

We truly believe that for volunteers the ESC is an opportunity to learn, to improve themselves and to discover and develop their personality and competences. For this reason we encourage our volunteers to develop a personal project. With the support of their Mentor the volunteers will develop a concrete personal plan with the objective of creating a personal project based on their own interests and goals.

Volunteer's profile

The project is open to any youngster between 18-30 years who is motivated to live a new experience, be flexible, outgoing and is willing to spend 8 months in Greece.

The ideal volunteer is willing to engage and be active in society, with interest in education and working with vulnerable groups, and has ecological awareness.

The most important factor for the selection of the participants is their high motivation to join the activities planned in the project and their interest in the topic.

A good English knowledge will be a helpful element for the volunteers themselves as it will make communication easier and give them more security and self-confidence during the implementation of the activities.

Moreover, in case of restrictions due to the pandemic, volunteers without good language skills would have problems in supporting the online activities. Being animal friendly is also relevant.

Having musical education, previous experience working with children or vulnerable groups will be considered a plus.

Last, we need volunteers to be able to live in a community with many people, taking care of themselves and participate to the cleaning.



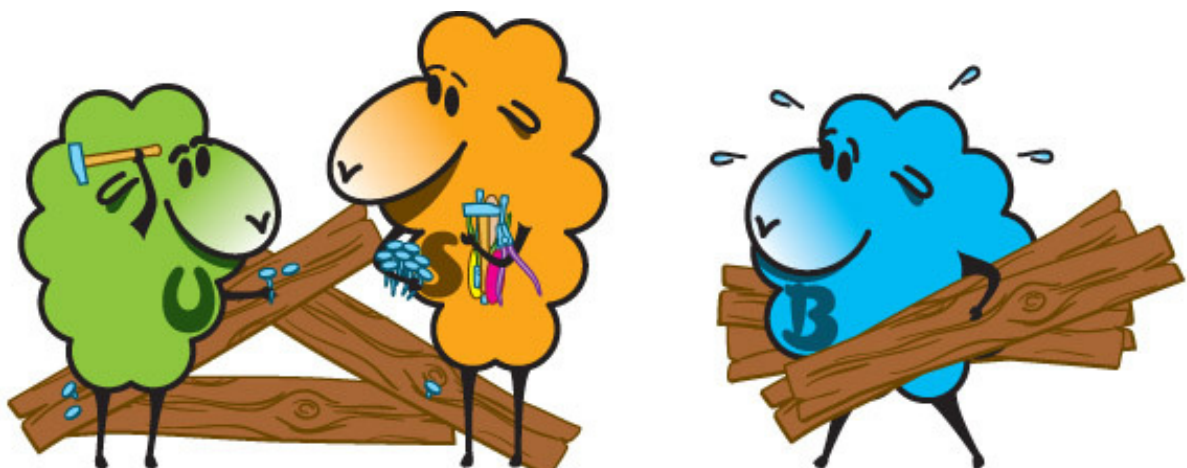
The Project

Volunteers will join the programme "Joining hands we go further" through which they will help Faros with their educational activities for the children from the shelter. These include supportive teaching in school subjects, teaching foreign languages, gardening and ecological activities, photography lessons, music lessons, etc...

This is a programme to reflect and discuss about integration, respect, no discrimination, through non formal activities. They will also join festivals in the city to promote the activities of the organisation, the results of this project and the European Solidarity Corps.

Also they will have the chance to write articles and create videos to support Faros' social media.

The volunteers will give their services for about 30 hours per week, five days per week. They have the right to two free days extra per month, which must be taken under the approval of the coordinator. A mentor will support them during all their stay and ensure their physical and mental well-being.



Language & Youthpass

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 provide extra Greek language courses and we try to encourage volunteers to learn the language through informal and non formal learning, participating in events and activities with Greek people:

- TANDEM meetings, where people from different countries help each other to learn and practice languages and
- assigning to each volunteer a local young "buddy"



Youthpass

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 fulfill it properly at the end of their project. The Mentor is the responsible for the Youthpass and will support the volunteers for it.

Accommodation

Volunteers are going to be accommodated in a fully equipped building located in the city centre (Anagnostara, 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. There are two living rooms and a big kitchen, showers in the common floors and toilets in every floor.

In the building there are also accommodated the volunteers who participate in other projects in the city coordinated by our organisation.

Each volunteer will share their room with one or three more people (we have double and big quadruple rooms).

In the building are living up to 35 volunteers. More info about the rules are in the residence statute.



There are also single rooms for people with special needs or for interns. Wireless internet is available in the whole building. The House Manager coordinate the cleanings and the organisation of the spaces in the house and work every morning in the common spaces from Monday to Friday.



Food Policy

We provide our volunteers with three meals per day through a catering service that prepares the food according to their preferences and allergies (also if they are vegan or vegetarian). 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 .

The kitchen is always available for the volunteers if they want to cook something more or add ingredients to their food.



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.

Budget Policy

The travel costs are covered by the association until a limit based on the distance between Thessaloniki and the hometown of the volunteer.

At the beginning of each month the volunteers will take the money for the whole month calculated in the following way: a pocket money, 5 euros per day plus 5 extra euros per day for the weekends, days off and official holidays of Greece (in these day the organisation will not provide meals).

The organisation will provide a monthly pass for the local transportation. Entrances to festival or events where volunteers go for activities connected to the project will be paid by the organisation (for example Marathon, Tattoo Festival, Colours Day, Expositions). The volunteers can refer also to the Volunteer Coordinator about what they need to buy for the house or for special financing for their personal projects. The Volunteer Coordinator delivers the monthly financial needs to the President of the organisation in order to approve them according with the budget availability.



Cooperation with the SO

A strong cooperation between the sending and the hosting 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 feedback to the sending organisation about the fulfilled tasks and the Mentor will communicate about personal issues of the volunteer.



USB Network

United Societies of Balkans is also coordinating other EVS project in the city.

The volunteers hosted by other organisations are accommodated 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.



Our Team



Aris

President of USB

Supervise the project and support the team.



Rania

Mentor

Personal development, personal project, health and social issues, Youthpass.



Christian

ESC Manager & Volunteers' Coordinator

General Coordination, practical arrangements, monthly budget.

Weekly and monthly tasks, supervision and support, workshops, free days



Dionisis

House Tender

House cleaning, all house issues, meals.



Kristina

Accountant

Ticket reimbursement
Financial issues



Useful Links

European Youth Portal :

https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

Thessaloniki's info: www.thessalonikicity.gr



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

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