

## ABOUT CRES

Centrul Regional de Economie Socială is NGO activating the city of Craiova in South West Oltenia region of Romania. The organisation was borne out of the desire of its members to have a more structured framework through which to be able to implement activities that would lead to community development and promotion of social economy.

The mission of CRES: CRES proposes itself to empower communities regarding self-management and long-term development of social economy and public administration reform to support the EU integration process.

For more info:

- [Our EVS Database Entry](#)
- [Our Facebook Page](#)

## Helping Others Participate and be Engaged in Society II

### - HOPES II -

Through this **Open Call** the organization Centrul Regional de Economie Socială **CRES** is looking for **Volunteers** for the **HOPES II** project,

**Type of project:** Mobility for youth – **EVS project**

**Venue:** **Craiova**, Dolj County and **Tagu Jiu**, Gorj County Romania

**EVS Stage Duration:** **01 August 2015 – 30 April 2016**

**How many volunteers:** **12 volunteers** in total coming from Italy, Portugal, Spain and France – 4 in Tagu Jiu, 8 in Craiova

### **Profile of participant:**

- Aged between **18 to 30 years**
- Volunteers need to have a **genuine interest** in **Social Work, social inclusion**, and carrying for the disabled and be willing to learn and expand their skills on these issues – This will consist the main selection criteria for the project
- **active, open-minded, creative, innovative, responsible and motivated volunteers**
- The volunteers who apply for this project need to **like and be willing to work with DISABLED YOUTH**(various mental disabilities and hearing disabilities) for 9 months.
- **a basic level of English** is required (being able to make herself/himself understood by the others)

**TL;DR - This is a long read, here is the shortest version:**

*You will be a volunteer and work with disabled children for 9 months in Craiova and Targu Jiu, Romania. All expenses are paid and you will learn a lot and have lots of fun.*

## *What will I DO in the HOPES II project?*

The volunteers of the HOPES II Project will be directly involved in the planning, organization and **implementation of non-formal activities in educational and social institutions in the city of Craiova**, activities directed towards the achievements of the project objectives.

The project is structured in 3 phases:

### *1. Phase 1 - Preparation, Adaptation and Training*

During this part of the project the volunteers will:

- get the chance to better accommodate to one another
- get to better know and understand the project
- improve skills necessary for the implementation of the project
- get to know the CRES organisation and the people that they will work with
- get to know the institutions where they will work and the people who they will help during the project (the target group)
- get to know their host city of Craiova and Targu Jiu (how to orientate around the city, shopping places, free time opportunities, cultural attraction etc.)

### *2. Phase 2 - Non-formal education and social inclusion programme.*

This project activity will be the core of the project and consists of a 9 months EVS stage for 12 volunteers who will be working on social inclusion in social assistance institutions in Craiova and Targu Jiu.

The 12 volunteers will be involved in activities that fall into the following programmes:

- 1. Cultural awareness programme:** will capitalize on cultural diversity among volunteer will contain activities such as presentations, non-formal workshops on traditional arts&crafts, traditional dances and music
- 2. Languages and multilingualism programme:** under the form of language clubs in the intuitions and schools that use non-formal methods (games, workshops, movies, songs, role-pays etc.) to help the participant learn or strengthen their ability to speak other languages (English, Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese)
- 3. Creativity and self-expression stimulation programme:** arts workshops (painting, clay modeling, singing, handicrafts), theatre, Creative play (use familiar materials in a new or unusual ways), problem solving (application of knowledge and imagination to a given situation). This also will be used to build self-esteem and self-confidence.
- 4. Building, social integration capacity, soft skills and autonomy programme:** presentation sessions and special workshops that aimed at rising "EQ" (Emotional Intelligence Quotient), teach the youth through non-formal games and scenarios how to act in different social situations.

**5. Social Inclusion Awareness campaign** – will consist in awareness actions and activities that aim to bring more visibility towards groups with disabilities and social institutions and to bring the issue of social inclusion on to the public agenda

**6. Life-long learning opportunities for youth** – promoting the ERASMUS+ programme and other opportunities to the youth of Craiova

**7. Sports and outdoor activities programme** – used as support to form teamwork skills, tolerance for diversity, self-esteem

Besides working in the social institutions the volunteers will work in **2 high schools** of Craiova - **Liceul Teoretic Henry Coanda, C.N Nicolae Titulescu** - with the objective of forming a local action group with students from these 2 high schools that will interact and continue doing activities with the beneficiaries in the social institutions after the project has ended.

In this activity we will also be organizing **large scale outreach events** that aim to increase awareness on the needs of the socially assisted and increase tolerance. These activities will be organized with the occasion of:

- **International Tolerance Day** (16th November),
- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** (3rd of December),
- **Europe Day** (9th of May),
- **Children's Day** (1st of June).

The above mentioned activities are more as guide lines as **each volunteer has the opportunity to propose, implement and carry on new types of activities bases on previous experiences, personal preferences, skills and abilities.**

### *What will I learn in the HOPES II project?*

Our learning methodology focuses on a combined approach to theoretical/practical knowledge based on “experiential learning cycle”, “learning by doing” and “framework theory “in which volunteers get to have hand on contact with the practical applications of the knowledge to be acquired while having a professional working besides the volunteer and providing feedback.

For the volunteers we aim to contribute to their **Personal&Professional development** targeting the acquisition of the following competences by the volunteers:

#### **Professional development:**

- increased skills on beneficiary and **institutional needs analysis** and how to use this analysis in program and activity design on short and long term
- learn about and increase competences related to **social work**, how social institutions work and adapt to the needs of their beneficiaries, how to increase and work towards **social inclusion**
- competences such as **project management, planning and evaluations, strategic development, risk management**, working in the NGO sector, international relationships, fund raising and social communication learned practically by working together with the staff of CRES
- learn how to use **non-formal tools to build competences**
- learn to **use animation** as a method to attract and work with both youngsters, special needs groups

- learn to **speak and understand Romanian Language** but also other foreign languages (of their peer volunteers) - done directly by weekly language tutoring, indirectly by contact with target group, friends etc.

#### **Personal development:**

- learn about **the European values and principles** by living in an internationalized environment, learning these values by operationalizing and transmitting them to the beneficiaries

- learn more about the **ERASMUS+ programme**

- learn how to **live and work in another culture** and learn about various cultural traditions and customs of Romania and of the countries of the other volunteers

- gain and develop skills such as team work, leadership, interpersonal communication, planning, goal setting and working with deadlines by working, planning and evaluating activities in an intercultural, highly interconnected and participatory managed team which will create the proper setting for acquisition of these skills.

- learn how to be more tolerant, flexible and adaptable - living and working together with others and also their type of work will require the volunteer to develop such abilities aided by the mentors

- develop soft skills such as self-confidence, self-reflection and introspection abilities, increased personal autonomy- the participatory planning and evaluation approach, job shadowing opportunities, creative thinking environment and facilitation coupled with the mentors support will directly facilitate the development of these traits.

## ***Practical Arrangements & Financial aspects***

**Travel:** CRES will purchase **flight tickets** while the SO will make sure that the volunteer is well informed, has all documents and gets safely on board.

**Local transport:** will be **covered by CRES**, upon arrival they will receive info on how to use public transport, a map of the transit lines etc.

**Accommodation:** CRES will host the volunteers in the city of Craiova and Targu Jiu. Each accommodation will assure good living conditions (private beds, equipped kitchen and bathroom, heating system, running cold/ hot water, Wi-Fi).

**Working programme:** working hours are flexible and adapted to the schedule of the target institutions and is usually **3-4 hours/day in the institutions and 1-2 hours/day for preparing the activities**.

Each volunteer is entitled to receiving **2 free days/week** (typically weekends but in case that an activity requires work on the weekend the volunteer will be free in the next days) and a total of **18 days of vacation in the project** that he can use as he wants as long as he notifies the organizations 1 week in advance.

**Language support:** **2 times/ week** for the first 4 months and **1 session/week** for the next months.

**Communication:** each volunteer will receive a **Romanian SIM cards** for mobile phones and **5 euro/month**

**Financial aspects:** International travel, local transport, accommodation and utility fees, monthly communication costs, costs related to activities **are covered directly by CRES.**

**Monthly food allowance: 90 euro/month**

**Pocket money: 60 euro/month**

## *What support will be available during your EVS?*

**The mentor** will be responsible for **the general personal support of the volunteer**. They are in charge of **solving practical problems** arising being the "first line of support" available. They will be the **volunteer's go-to person for any personal problems**

**The counterparts** (staff from the Social Centers/Institutions – **teachers/professionals**)-that will be **supporting the volunteers in the actual implementation process of the activities**. They will provide the volunteers with professional support in delivering their activities.

**Additional support** will be offered by CRES in the form of **PAT phase** which is a programme designed to transmit all the necessary skill and abilities for the project focusing on skills and abilities building programme, providing them with methods, tools and materials that will support and facilitate their activities in the project.

## *Have we caught your attention? Here`s how to apply?*

1. Prepare a CV and a motivation letter
2. Contact one of our **partner sending organisation** from your corresponding country:  
Associazione Culturale Link - Italy - [evs@linkyouth.org](mailto:evs@linkyouth.org)  
Associazione Culturale Eufemia -Italy - [pasquale.lanni13@gmail.com](mailto:pasquale.lanni13@gmail.com)  
ProAtlântico - Associação Juvenil - Portugal - [sveenvio@proatlantico.com](mailto:sveenvio@proatlantico.com)  
Point Information Jeunesse / Mission Locale du Velay - France - [Valerie.pronier@pjj-velay.org](mailto:Valerie.pronier@pjj-velay.org)  
TAMBOUR BATTANT -France- [mission-tb@outlook.com](mailto:mission-tb@outlook.com)  
Asociación Mundus - Un Mundo a tus Pies- Spain - [unmundoatuspies@gmail.com](mailto:unmundoatuspies@gmail.com)  
INDICOT - Spain - [rfalero@indicot.org](mailto:rfalero@indicot.org)
3. We will have a Skype interview with you
4. We announce if you have been selected and we sign the papers



If you are interested or want more information please [CONTACT US AT](#)

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