

# Volunteer Now

## NEWSLETTER

### VOLUNTEER NOW ERASMUS+ YOUTH EXCHANGE

**Dates: 20 - 29.10.2022**

**Location: Poland, Łęborg**



The youth exchange "Volunteer Now" brought 36 participants from six countries: Poland, Ireland, Greece, Georgia, Armenia, and Turkey.

The project's purpose was to encourage volunteerism and raise awareness of the importance and benefits of volunteering. The project aimed to promote volunteering opportunities for youngsters from EU and non-EU countries



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

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## The main objectives of the project

1. To show the importance of volunteerism and the economic value of the work volunteers;
2. To show the social and personal value people gain when they volunteer;
3. To increase public awareness of the benefit and contributions of volunteers.



4. To promote volunteerism and youth engagement in civic life;
5. To motivate people to make a commitment to volunteer work and to maintain or increase their current level of involvement;
6. To develop participants' knowledge regarding different types of volunteering and to increase their soft and social skills;
7. To promote Erasmus + opportunities

# Volunteer Now Project Team

Participants from six countries, including Poland, Ireland, Greece, Georgia, Armenia, and Turkey, were a part of the project team. There were five representatives from each national team, and individuals had to be 18 or older to participate in the youth exchange. The participants' backgrounds were primarily related to informal and non-formal education and youth work. Therefore, 36 participants gathered in Łęborg, Poland, to exchange best practices and gain knowledge from one another's experiences. The team members were motivated by a desire to learn more about volunteerism and its positive benefits for individuals and societies.

*As a sign of respect for diversity and equality, the gender balance was taken into account such that the national teams had approximately equal amounts of female and male participants. Their mutual interest in finding out more about volunteerism and volunteer opportunities brought the participants together. They were able to achieve this through topic-related activities, workshops, and casual talks. Most of the participants were eager to share their knowledge and demonstrate their skills and competencies to create effective youth exchange.*



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## Project Activities

The participants were involved in both individual and group tasks which allowed them to develop their personal skills and social competencies as well.

Even if the project activities were planned the participants had initiatives to implement during the youth exchange. They were actively engaged in sessions, workshops, and discussions to share their understanding of volunteering. The main method used during the youth exchange was informal and non-formal learning approaches which created a free and comfortable space for the participants to express their ideas without fear that they would not be heard.



The project sessions were diverse and provided the participants with a chance to be engaged in interactive activities. Every day they had daily reflections to discuss if there was something that they would have liked to change and make the sessions more flexible or related to their interests. Examples of the activities are the following: games, role-playing games, brainstorming, team building, energizers, presentations, evaluations, fish bow debates, individual work, social interaction, storytelling, and various digital tools.

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## Project results

- Learning more about volunteering opportunities and identifying their importance;
- Recognize the economic value of the volunteers' work for youth people;
- Providing the participants with concrete tools, methods, and examples of how they can Promote volunteering in their communities;
- Getting more information about Erasmus+ opportunities and how they can get involved in new initiatives;
- Emphasizing the importance of active European citizenship in the context of the inter-cultural dialogue;
- Identifying the individual role and responsibilities to be engaged in social and civic life;
- Learning certain approaches and tools how to make youth people interested in volunteering initiatives.

• ***The feedback of One of the Polish participants :***

***"Volunteer Now" was an amazing project that provoked me to search for more volunteering opportunities as I learned more about them and I was surprised how many chances are around us that we have no idea. I saw volunteering from a different perspective and I appreciate it more. I loved the activities we did and also exploring the areas during the city tour, locals and organization were so nice and I had so much fun there."***



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## INVOLVED ORGANIZATIONS



Patras  
Youth Club



Love & Care for People  
*Empowering & Developing People*



Coordinate organization  
Poland  
Stowarzyszenie EDUQ

Partner organization  
Ireland  
Love And Care For People Worldwide

Partner organization  
Georgia  
Youth Center of Georgia

Partner organization  
Armenia  
Creative Youth

Partner organization  
Turkey

Partner organization  
Greece  
Patras Youth Club

LYKIA IZCILIK VE DOGA SPORLARI KULUBU DERNEGI