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**romania**

European Solidarity Corps Project

## **Building Stronger Communities**



2020-1-RO01-ESC11-079004

**VOLUNTEERING SERVICE BETWEEN: 01.10.2020-31.08.2021**



**“Building Stronger Communities”** project will take place in Baia Mare city and its surroundings – Cavnic, (North-West Romania) with 11 months service, between 1.10.2020- 31.08.2021.

The project will host 4 volunteers, from 4 countries: Austria, Portugal, Spain and any other European Union country.

<b>Flag of the Partner country</b>	<b>Partner Country</b>	<b>Partner Organization</b>
	<b>Austria</b>	<b>Verein 4YOUgend</b>
	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>Portugal-ProAtlântico - Associação Juvenil</b>
	<b>Spain</b>	<b>Asociación Building Bridges</b>
	<b>Any other EU country</b>	<b>To be confirmed during the selection of participant's process</b>

<b>Flag of The Hosting Country</b>	<b>Hosting Country</b>	<b>Hosting Organization</b>
	<b>Romania</b>	<b>YMCA Romania Federation</b>

## 1. Organisation:

**YMCA Romanian Federation** has been part of the wide world YMCA family since 1919. Our activities are designed mostly for children, teenagers and students and they are based on trainings, social services, camps and outdoor, international exchanges, workshops, community and youth centers and activities in rural areas, in which our main 4 areas of focus are: education, social, structured EU dialogue with youth and youth policies. Furthermore, our programs always reflect the YMCA unique character, ambitions and achievements. That is why we focus our work on inclusion, healthy living and peace, justice and democracy.

We have been hosting international volunteers since 2010, empowering them to develop personally and professionally through different community programs.

## 2. Short description of the project:

The approach of our organization is to respond not only to the existing needs but also to build bridges of knowledge, of trust within the local communities that we serve, promoting and supporting local engagement, active involvement of the young people in the life of our communities.

This approach was emphasized at the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum from January 2017-2019, our organization having one representative in the official delegation of World YMCA. We put in practice the message expressed there: We cannot see the youth only as our future, because we jeopardize all our future. The young people are the present, they need to act now, to raise their voice now, and we need to listen now.

***Building stronger communities*** is the renewed continuation of what we have been doing in both local and international youth led programs. In the 16 years of experience that we have, the quality youth work creates a big impact in our context. By bringing international youth we spread our service to a bigger frame and our work is enriched by the new perspective, knowledge, mentality, interculturality. We are proud to say that we offer a free and safe space for self expression and creativity, which leads to a wider development and empowerment.

Its idea is to develop youth empowering programs in which youth are empowered to become active citizens engaged in their community. The proposed project addresses the needs, interests and hot topics existing at European and local level: civic engagement, youth empowerment, climate change and environment protection, inclusion. Everything is structured in community context through solidarity activities that lead to positive societal change, improvement of skills and increased employability opportunities, fostering cooperation, in a high quality youth work frame, following the principles of the European Solidarity Corps and organization's core values: care, respect, honesty, responsibility, faith, diversity, solidarity, inclusion, cooperation.

*„Building stronger communities” project aims to promote solidarity through volunteering activities, to encourage active citizenship by empowering young people to*

*engage in strengthening our communities, by advocating for climate, diversity, inclusion, non discrimination, democratic participation, equity, cooperation.*

### **3. Objectives:**

- To develop the competencies for personal, educational, social, civic, cultural and professional development of 4 volunteers by engaging them for 11 months in several community programs promoting environmental awareness, solidarity, inclusion, equality and equity, youth participation, interculturality;
- To raise awareness about cooperation and solidarity within the community by creating links and intergenerational event in 5 neighborhoods from Baia Mare, aiming for positive societal change
- To raise awareness about climate change and implement concrete actions among a number of minimum 300 children and youth from several cities from Maramures region and ensure that their voices and actions are heard by sending it as recommendations for the local authorities and by media promotion, during the 11 months of volunteering.
- To engage 50 children and young people with fewer opportunities in Inclusive programs led by our international volunteers designed to fight against discrimination, exclusion, segregation, bullying, violence, aiming to build trust and community involvement.
- To empower the 4 volunteers to create during their service their personal workshop based on their needs, interests, abilities, by involving different community groups.
- To promote in a regional level the European Solidarity Corps as an opportunity for personal and professional development, employability and transition into the labor market, among youth, especially among those with fewer opportunities, during the 11 months of volunteering.

### **4. Standard activities:**



- Inclusion programs at HHC family/foster homes in Baia Mare, at Cavnice (city declared legally disadvantaged -urban poor, with a mixed population of Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, Roma), in the roma community –creative activities, green education, sports, activities to develop social competences and ITC and digital competences, recreational activities, intercultural education, SDGs, civic engagement

- Own workshops that the volunteers will create and implement in the second part of their service based on their interests and abilities; open calls will be created to foster community involvement.

- *The Y(outh) 4 SDGs* - leadership and Sustainable Development Goal education and action program for preteenagers and teenagers.

- *Green Club*: climate change and environmental education for young people from schools.

- *YMCA Leadership Academy*: education and actions for SDGs, Youth Goals, Climate change, community engagement, youth led projects/events, activities for and with local YMCA volunteers

- *TenSing Program*: youth led program focused on leadership through theatre, music, dance, media content to transmit messages values, important for youth.

- *Youth Centre activities* - with youth who are coming to the Youth Center belonging to Maramures Youth and Sports Directorate - activities will be developed according to the needs and interest of the youth coming there: from socializing, games, common activities, club , debates, community projects



- Media workshop in which volunteers will create products, promotion on social networks, platforms, ebook (about participation of young people, youth and climate change an excellent tool for promoting and disseminating the themes of the project, activities, results, explaining the meaning of young people the benefits of community involvement and inclusive education meant to strengthen a community), monthly newsletter.

- *Community Links program*: interact at least 5 neighborhoods of Baia Mare and create 1 event/neighborhood, according to their needs and interests. Beneficiaries: youth, kids, adults, seniors- inter generational approach

- Weekly meeting of coordination, supervision, evaluation, task related support.

- Office work: perspective about how an organization is operating, documents, acquisitions, procedures, press releases.

- Mentorship: establishing the learning objectives, internalizing the daily basis experiences, sharing of feelings and thoughts, integration, reflection on personal assets and working on the Youthpass.

- Romanian culture & language: vocabulary, grammar, common expressions, conversation, writing, reading, cultural, historical aspects, integration.

- Meeting with other NGOs, authorities, other community stakeholders – integration, awareness, collaboration.



- Involvement in the association's projects: festivals, camps, training, events, general meetings.

- Planning and preparing the activities for the week: research, preparation, materials, logistics.

\*We will organize 9 sessions presenting volunteering and ESC during the community events and complementary activities.

\*\*In summer of 2021 we will have our educational and recreational camps including children and young people with fewer opportunities both from the programs over the year as well as new groups, in Baia Mare, Cavnic, other areas, depending on the planning of the Camp Program Committee.

Accordingly with the evolution of the Covid 19 pandemic, the activities can be adapted to online sessions and to the community needs from that certain period of time. Also the period of the service and be shifted before October 2020 or postponed, depending on the specific situation from autumn.

## 5. Complementary activities:

3 events in 3 smaller cities from Maramures: Tg Lapus, Sighetu Marmatiei and Viseu de Sus. Through these events we want to empower 25 young people from each city to volunteer and through this to develop their skills, to raise awareness about participation, active citizenship, solidarity, interculturality, inclusion, to raise awareness and educate by identifying main 3-5 issues affecting them and their local communities, its causes and solutions needed in short and long terms and passing them to the local authorities.



## 6. Training and methodology:

The volunteers will receive several training courses about the organization, the different programs, teambuilding, on non formal education, working with children and youth, civic engagement, civic education, green education, SDGs, conflict management, leadership, time management, intercultural education, human rights, etc.

The program is extremely varied, with activities, participatory methods that stimulate learning, creativity, active involvement, initiative, reflection.

**Non-formal methods:** experiential learning, learning by doing, role play, simulations, energizers, reflection, teamwork, coaching, a class divided, panel, fish bowl, town hall meeting, World cafe, Open space, workshops, clubs, peer to peer, Punctum, Mandala, YouthPass Unfolded, Points of You, diverse community development tools, trainings, board games, sports, etc.

We consider that non-formal education facilitates and leads to a learning process with a great impact on volunteers and beneficiaries, stimulating creativity, active participation, initiative, objective-based competences development and entrepreneurial spirit.



## 7. Volunteer`s profile:

- Volunteers will be aged between 18-30 years and coming from Austria, Portugal, Spain and any other EU countries
- Needs to show enthusiasm, motivation to learn and show creative knowledge ,abilities.
- Needs to be motivated to create and implement activities related with the environment and inclusion involving local teenagers and communities
- Determined to be involved in a long term mobility project that will finish after 11 months.
- Skills and willingness to adapt to a new country and culture.
- Interested in organizing community events, in non-formal education, in climate change issues and participation.
- Basic English speaking skills (this is not an essential condition).
- Artistic skills (music, dance, theater, painting) are an added value.

- Are facing difficulties: socially, economically, geographically, unemployment, school drop out, coming from minority communities, from single parent families, from conflict areas, foster care, etc.

The volunteers we are expecting should be interested to work in the youth field and in the community out of care, respect, honesty, responsibility, solidarity, love, cooperation. We are looking for open-minded persons who have the desire to come to Romania and experience all the challenges that might appear. We don't require a lot of experience or special skills, just openness and willingness to learn and work.

The selection process is a fair one, we accept anyone's application, volunteers from different backgrounds, cultures, race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity. We believe that anyone is equal and should be given this opportunity to be selected in an ESC volunteering project, regardless of background, competence or experience. The profile of the volunteers will be related with the topics we will address in the project and the objectives we fixed previously.



Country – Partner Sending Organization	Number of volunteers
Austria - Verein 4YOUgend	1
Portugal - Associação Juvenil	1
Spain - Association Building Bridges	1
Netherlands/Any other EU country - to be confirmed during the selection	1

## 8. Attitude. Initiative.



The volunteers should have good communication abilities, able to work in a team, willing to work with young people from different nationalities and religions. The volunteers need to be responsible, diligent, creative, open minded, ambitious, committed, interested in innovative ways of communication and implementing creative activities

Volunteering in YMCA Romania is a group experience and an individual learning process in a group context. You live and work in a group of 4 volunteers whom you have not met up to that moment and you'll have to find ways to relate and get along. It's a big adventure: not always easy or fun, but full of new discoveries and challenges. *The work you'll be doing in our project requires that you are open-minded, social and fundamentally interested in other people, even if at surface is a value you have little in common with.*

Also, you need to be able to take initiative both towards people and regarding your tasks and projects. The work that you do inside YMCA Romania (here included also the programs run in different locations and in local partnership) it's yours. Consider it your own and make it your own. Take care of it because it is your own. YOU are representing our organization and WE want to be proud of you and your work.

## 9. Practical arrangements:

A working week consists of 35 hours per week (Monday to Friday) between different hours; weekends are days off. A schedule will be created during the first months, when all the agreements with the different partners involved in the project are set. If some activities or events take place during a weekend, volunteers will get free election days off. Besides, the volunteers will receive two more days off per month.

Volunteers are supposed to announce their vacation plans with their coordinator at least 2 weeks before.

The volunteers will receive a monthly food allowance accordingly with the National Agency recommendation. Local transportation to programs outside the city of Baia Mare will be by bus (local bus companies) and will be supported by the organization (reimbursed monthly after the volunteer is bringing all the tickets to the coordinator).

Volunteers will receive a monthly allowance/pocket money in the amount of 90,50 euro. Volunteers will be accommodated in one house/apartment with shared rooms (2 persons per room), kitchen, bathroom. The house/apartment will be equipped with all

necessary utilities for living. Volunteers are responsible for keeping the apartment and rooms clean. The Internet will be provided in the house and in the office.

Volunteers will attend Romanian language lessons weekly. Also they will get support from their coordinator, staff, volunteers and mentor.

## **10. Risk and conflict management**

The participant must not act in any way that could put others or themselves at risk of being injured. If a conflict situation arises, the participant may ask her/his mentor to facilitate communication between the participant and the local environment or the host organisation.

The mentor will provide an independent and objective evaluation of the situation. If conflict arises between the participant and the mentor, the participant can ask to get another person appointed as their mentor.

In the event of a conflict situation, the participant will be supported and must cooperate actively with the participating organisations to avoid communication problems. If a serious incident occurs, the participant can expect the mentor to establish and maintain appropriate contact with the supporting organisation, their next of kin (if required or requested) and the insurance company, if necessary.

In the event of a serious incident or conflict situation that cannot be resolved in other ways, the participant can leave the project. This, however, should always be the last resort and should be agreed with the National/Executive Agency.

### **The situation about Covid 19 pandemic in Romania till 15.06.2020**

We had a lock down from 24th of March until the 14th May. After that, we entered in the so-called second phase -Alert situation- when social distancing is required, wearing a mask inside public spaces and there is a limited number of people to gather. ( so far 20 ppl indoor places and 50 ppl outdoors, respecting certain safety rules)

According to the official news, in the entire country on 15th of June 2020 we have 22165 infected persons, 15817 cured, 1427 deaths. In Maramures region (where Baia Mare is located), we have 120 infected people, 97 cured and 6 deaths.

Our organization put all the safety measures and procedures in place to protect the staff and the volunteers, respecting all the guidelines required by the Government (spaces, cleaning, disinfection, temperature scan, etc).

*Accordingly with the evolution of the Covid 19 pandemic, the activities can be adapted to online sessions and to the community needs from that certain period of time. Also the period of the service and be shifted before October 2020 or postponed, depending on the specific situation from autumn.*

## 11. Travel

Maximum travel costs reimbursed accordingly with the approved budget (based on EU distance band calculator): 275 EUR (Austria, Netherlands/any other EU countries) and 360 EUR (Spain and Portugal). These amounts cover the trips from your country to Baia Mare and return travel.

### 11.2. Conditions of reimbursement

By law and the funding rules of the ESC Program we need to keep certain administrative procedures. We are asking for your support and cooperation in keeping these rules. **Please make sure that you read and understand the conditions and the procedure:**

- You will buy your tickets only after confirmation in the project and after the hosting organization advises you relating the transport means (or if you request and both parties agree the organization can buy it).
- Save your original tickets and receipts, invoices and all related documents, because you can only get reimbursement for costs of which you can prove the amounts with original tickets and receipts. Only the amount written on the ticket will be reimbursed – that is, if you want your return ticket to be reimbursed, you have to give it to us. **ALL the following ORIGINAL documents will be needed:**
  - All your tickets and boarding passes.
  - Invoices of buying your tickets.
  - Passport or ID.
  - Official document from the bank or travel agency stating the proof of paying the travel tickets.

**What is an invoice?:** A document signed and stamped by the seller. The invoice of the flight ticket must contain your **name, the starting and finishing place and the date of the journey and the price of the ticket**. Whatever official is your paper, if these data are not on it, you cannot get it reimbursed! Use your name from your passport, no nicknames!

**An e-ticket is NOT an invoice!** If necessary, call the airline/train company/etc., explain them the situation and ask them to give you a receipt/invoice with the data given above. If you buy tickets online, take care that you tick the box indicating that you want an invoice, and you fill in the address of YMCA Romania Federation where the invoice has to be sent by the airline company.

## 12. What to bring

- Smart, casual, sport clothes for outdoor and indoor activities.
- Warm clothes (during the winter -mid November until the end of February- the temperature can go 20 degrees below zero Celsius).
- Photo or video camera and notebook/laptop (if possible).
- Materials for intercultural events: flag, traditional food, presentations of country/organization, drinks, other materials. (if possible)
- Towels and other useful personal items.
- Your own medicines.
- Passport or ID.
- Police background check/certificate - that proves you did not commit any illegal deeds or sexual crimes. ( you will be working with children and young people).
- All original bills and tickets.

**The deadline to apply is 15 of July 2020. Send your CV to [office@ymca.ro](mailto:office@ymca.ro) and fulfill the application form in this [link](#) till 15.07.2020.**

**Check out the legacy of volunteers from  
Youth Power Space and Youth Power Space II projects**

**Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xddBNXs3nik&t=26s>

**Ebooks:**

[https://issuu.com/ymcaromania/docs/finalebook\\_youthpowerspaceii](https://issuu.com/ymcaromania/docs/finalebook_youthpowerspaceii)

[https://issuu.com/ymcaromania/docs/the\\_ebookfinal](https://issuu.com/ymcaromania/docs/the_ebookfinal)

**Volunteer's legacy:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X\\_mWS1hzx3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_mWS1hzx3s),

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7Qzqd-g9Pw>,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvjlwFSFLFA>,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVRQEV0vWEs>,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NPpsR8pCOA>

**Volunteer's blogs you can find on: [www.ymca.ro](http://www.ymca.ro) – news**

### 13. About Baia Mare, Maramures



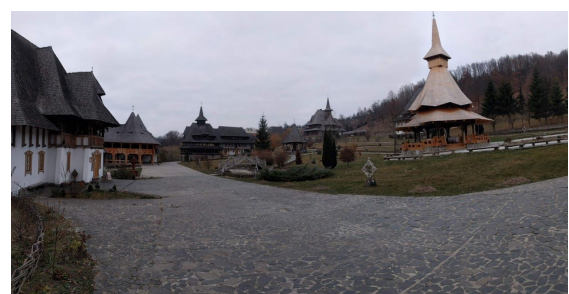
Baia Mare is the capital city of the region of Maramures, a very mountainous region located in the north west of Romania. It is located about 600 kilometres from Bucharest, the capital of Romania, 70 kilometres from the border with Hungary and 50 kilometres from the border with Ukraine. It has a population of 137.976. The city of Baia Mare is the most populous of Northern Romanian cities (Satu Mare, Suceava and Botoşani), with a population of approximately 149,735.

It also has a high level of culture and education, being home to theatres, schools, museums and art galleries. It was also rewarded by being the 'Romanian Youth Capital 2018-2019'. Not far from the city there are a few very important natural reservations, among them Creasta Cocoşului, Cheile Tătărului, Lacul Albastru etc. Because of its privileged location in the Eastern Carpathian mountains it is considered one of the most picturesque cities in Romania.

**Maramures** county is considered by many to be the heart and soul of rural Romania. With its picturesque countryside of small villages, rolling hills, pastures, and meadows full of wildflowers, Maramures epitomizes all that the rural lifestyle encompasses. Visitors to Maramures have a unique opportunity to step back in time and bear witness to simpler times and simpler lives.



Maramures is a small and unique location in the geographical heartland of Europe that has carefully and distinctively preserved the culture, traditions and lifestyle of a mediaeval peasant past. The region stands as a testament to tradition, to a romantic era of simplicity, pride and moral values that many of us can only now read about or hear from our grandparents.



Little has changed in the centuries gone by. Families remain in the same villages as their ancestors. Traditional skills and crafts are passed down from generation to generation. Traditional hand-woven clothing continues to

be practical. The church continues to be the soul of the village. Neighbours know one another and continue to lend a helping hand.

Life in Maramures is like a mystery. Visitors to Maramures drive through mountain passes and descend into the valleys of life where the mystery of rural traditions unfolds before the visitor as a living museum that is at once within reach yet simultaneously beyond the grasp of the whimsical traveller.



Some of these mountains provide skiing slopes, most notably the one at Mogoşa, which is the most difficult slope in Northern Romania. The city is situated in the Baia Mare valley and is encircled on all sides by hills and mountains, which makes the climate in the city milder than the rest of the surrounding area. Proof of this is that the outskirts of Baia Mare are the only areas where you can find chestnut trees that usually need Mediterranean climate to grow. This is the northernmost reach of the chestnut tree. The summers are mild, cooler than in the rest of the country, but the temperature can go higher than 35 degrees.