



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## **REPORT OF THE PROJECT *ACTIVE YOUTH FOR EUROPE***

### **INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT**

Financing programme: Erasmus+, Key action: Learning mobility of individuals, Action: Mobility of learners and staff, Action type: Youth mobility

Project title: Active YOUth for Europe

Implementation period: 01.06.2016-30.11.2016.

Total project budget: 10.410 €

Main applicant: Asociația de Dezvoltare Intercomunitară Județul Satu Mare - Satu Mare County Intercommunity Development Association (Satu Mare -Romania)

Partners:

- European Youth Centre Břeclav z.s. (Břeclav-Czech Republic)
- Association for promotion of IT, Culture and Coexistence (IKS) (Petrinja-Croatia)
- Kek Egyesület for Cultural Life Non-Profit Organization (Nyíregyháza-Hungary)
- Bulgarian Youth Community (Varna-Bulgaria)
- Express Yourself (Salaspils-Latvia)

Main objective of the project: to improve the level of competences and skills of young people in the field of youth involvement in public life, as well as to promote participation in democratic life in Europe.

Main activity of the project: an 8 days youth mobility organized in Satu Mare (September 4-September 11, 2016) with the purpose of offering young people good examples, tools to increase the participation of young people in the democratic life in Europe. Each partner organization has sent to this activity 4 young people together with a group leader (30 people in total). The partners have encouraged the participation of young people from disadvantaged groups, especially from rural areas or minority groups, which have less opportunities to express and involve in public life.

## **PARTNERS**

*Asociația de Dezvoltare Intercomunitară Județul Satu Mare-The Satu Mare County Intercommunity Development Association* (Romania) was the main applicant for this project. The Satu Mare County Intercommunity Development Association was established in 2015 in order to prepare, promote and implement projects for the development of the Satu Mare County, in the common interest of all communities associated, in various areas: social services, health, education, sports, culture, infrastructure, environment, business environment, tourism, territorial planning, information technology etc., to achieve joint development projects which are of interest at the county and local level by obtaining domestic and foreign financing, and to coordinate public policies (policies stimulating employment, social inclusion, regional planning, economic development, promoting and stimulating tourism, information technology etc.). Until now, the association implemented a project financed from the Norway and EEA Grants and has in implementation 3 projects financed from URBACT III Programme, Erasmus+ Programme and the Norway and EEA Grants. For more information visit: [www.adijudetulsatumare.ro](http://www.adijudetulsatumare.ro).

*European Youth Centre Břeclav* (Czech Republic) is a non-governmental organization established by young people in 2007. The main aims and activities are informing and raising awareness of the European Union and its educational programs; promoting self-fulfillment and personal development of young people through educational programs on the European Union and developing non-formal education, inter-cultural dialogue, international cooperation and active civil society. Altogether, from 2007 until 2014 EYCB sent 1029 youths to attend 273 Youth in Action projects in 40 countries. For more information visit: [www.eycb.eu](http://www.eycb.eu).

*Association for promotion of IT, Culture and Coexistence-IKS* (Croatia) was founded in 2003 and from the very beginning has emerged as a leading civil society organization in the Sisak – Moslavina county. In more than 10 years, it has carried out various programs for different groups of citizens, representatives of civil society, socially vulnerable groups of citizens, children, youth and elderly. In partnership with the National Foundation for Civil Society Development and the CCI from Zagreb, from 2007 until today, the organization carried out a program of regional development "E - mission". The aim of this program is to empower civil society organizations in the four counties of central Croatia and city of Zagreb. In implementing this program, the organization has established cooperation with almost all civil society organizations and local governments in Croatia. For more information visit: [www.udrugaiks.hr](http://www.udrugaiks.hr).

*Kek Egyesület for Cultural Life Non-Profit Organization* (Hungary) was established in 2003, and it leads the Mustarhaz Youth Information and Advisory Office of Nyíregyháza since 2005. This office has a permanent link with the Nyíregyháza Municipality and has contributed to the elaboration of the youth strategy at the municipal and regional level. The organization has considerable experience in implementation of youth projects financed by the European Union. For more information visit: [www.mustarhaz.hu](http://www.mustarhaz.hu).

*Bulgarian Youth Community* (Bulgaria) is a collaboration platform for active youth participation in civil society. It brings together young people from different social status, religion and ethnicity, which work for raising awareness of youngsters and defending their interests.

Some of the members are young, ambitious experts in different fields that support youngsters for social integration and personal realization. It has organized various projects and seminars relevant to existing youth problems and sent participants to various national and international projects.

*Express Yourself* (Latvia) was established in 2013. The idea to create this organization was born as a result of the participation experience in a project that showed that there is not enough information among young people in the Latvian society about availability of non-government organization programs for their development. Main focuses of the organization are: enhancement of youth employment, increasing of awareness of cultural issues in other countries in their society, thus raising harmony between countries, cultures and religions the era of globalization, encouraging young people to get involved in labor market as employers by raising their knowledge in business management as well as their self-confidence.

## **THE YOUTH MOBILITY**

The main activity of the project consisted in an 8 days exchange of experience organized in Satu Mare (September 4-September 11, 2016) with the purpose of offering young people good examples, tools to increase the participation of young people in the democratic life in Europe. The programme included: formal and non-formal learning sessions on the following topics: clarification of concepts on democracy, active citizenship of youth, involvement of youth in public life of their regions, local public authorities and youth involvement, volunteering; study visits of public authorities: Satu Mare County Council, Carei Municipality, Doba Municipality; visits at non-governmental organizations: Stea Association, Caritas-"Speranța" Day Care Center; debates, role-plays and reflections.

### *04.09.2016: Arrival day*

The young participants arrived at the place of mobility, where they have registered and they received a short introduction on safety and security from the employees of the Satu Mare County Intercommunity Development Association. The participants received an info-pack on safety and security and with useful information on the location of the event as well as the detailed programme of the youth mobility.

### *5.9.2016: Democracy, citizenship*

In the introductory session there was included a detailed presentation of the programme, of the guide on safety and security, scheduling crosstalk, assigning tasks, discussions about the team-building games.

This introductory session was followed by a detailed presentation of the Erasmus+ Programme made by the partner from Croatia, Association for promotion of IT, Culture and Coexistence-IKS.



A detailed presentation of the Youthpass Certificate was made by the Czech Republic partners, European Youth Centre in Břeclav.

The afternoon programme included a session on the topic of "Clarifying concepts on democracy". This session, as well as the following day sessions, were organized with the support of Claudiu Porumbăcean, university teacher at "Vasile Goldiș" Western University of Arad - Satu Mare branch. Withing this session there were clarified and detailed concepts such as democracy, basic principles, state of law, state forms of organization. The session also included debates, role-plays, team work. At the end of the session, the participants had the opportunity to reflect on concepts and key-lessons learned during this first day of the exchange.

The Satu Mare County Intercommunity Development Association was responsible for organizing in this day the Romanian cultural evening, the objective being that of familiarizing the participants with the customs, traditions and Romanian values. At the Romanian cultural evening a small songs and dances folklore ensemble from the Satu Mare Center for Promotion and Conservation of Traditional Culture was present.



6.9.2016: *Active YOUth for Europe*

The third day of the exchange included formal and non-formal sessions on the topic "Active YOUth for Europe". During the first sessions there were discussed the methods and instruments for involving youth in public life, while the second session focused on similarities and differences between the states on youth involvement. The sessions comprised debates, role-plays and even simulations on teams of the voting process in a democratic state and the elaboration of platform and work programs, as well as simulations on the legislative initiative and the vote within legislative organs of democratic states.



The second cultural evening was dedicated to Hungary and the Hungarian culture, and the partners from Nyíregyháza presented customs, cultural values as well as traditional dances.



*7.9.2016: Volunteering as tool for youth involvement in public life*

There took place visits at two organizations with responsibilities in the field of care for elderly, respectively in the field of care for homeless people, both having considerable experience in working with volunteers. The "Speranța" Day Care Center for elderly belonging to Caritas organization and the Day Care Center for homeless people of Stea Association have been visited. At the "Speranța" Day Care Center the manager of the center presented the organization's care programs for elderly. The participants had the chance to interact with the beneficiaries of the center and to discuss with them the daily activities as well as the periodical ones. Subjects such as the social and mental impact of these care on elderly people have been discussed, the financing and the funds accession for this social activity. At the headquarter of Stea Association, the director of the institution together with the project responsible presented the ways for involving and motivating the homeless people, the tasks of the association in social inclusion of deprived categories. The participants were acquainted with the programs implemented by the association, one of these being the greenhouses of the association in which beneficiaries as well as volunteers are working.





The afternoon session included debates on the importance of active involvement of youth in public and social life, the participants at the mobility being encouraged to offer examples of volunteering activities from their countries. Also, a good practices exchange in the field of volunteering took place. The participants, grouped in transnational groups, have been asked to think about a volunteering activity for Satu Mare Municipality, to present their ideas and choose one of them to be implemented in the last full day of the mobility. It was agreed that the participants shall distribute promotional material of the Stea Association, together with an ecological tomato from the greenhouses of the Association, in the city center of Satu Mare Municipality with the purpose of promoting the activities of the association among the citizens and also to encourage young people to join as volunteers in the associations' activities. Moreover, within this session the intermediary evaluation of the mobility, based on a questionnaire prepared by the host-partner, took place.



The third cultural evening was dedicated to Bulgaria, and the young participants from this country served traditional Bulgarian snacks, and presented national values and customs together with traditional dances.



### 8.9.2016: *Local authorities and youth involvement*

The Satu Mare County Intercommunity Development Association organized visits to local authorities in Carei and Doba. The aim of the visits was to inform young participants on the tasks and organization system of local public authorities in Romania (at the level of city and commune). In Carei Municipality, the participants were received at the City Hall by the mayor, Kovacs Eugen, that presented the structure of the local administration, its tasks, the accomplishments in the field of patrimony, aspects on the management of the city, problems and long term challenges, involvement of youth in citizenship activities. The second visit took place in Doba Commune, the host during the visit being the mayor of the locality, Mihai Ghetina, as well as the employees from the local administration. There were presented aspects related to the administrative activity, major projects implemented and ongoing, situation of youth in the commune, and the school and kindergarten in the commune have been visited.



Within the afternoon session, the participants exchanged impressions on the visits to local public authorities. Moreover, the young participants presented the territorial-administrative structure of the states where they come from, the ways in which public authorities support the youth and the organizations active in the youth field. The participants exchanged best practices on youth involvement in public life.

The cultural evening was organized by Croatia, and the team representing this state served snacks, presented traditions, customs and specific dances and involved the participants in getting to know the Croatian state by organizing games.





### 9.9.2016: *Regions and youth involvement*

The objective of the sixth day of the exchange was to develop the knowledge of the participants on ways and instruments to involve youth in the public life of the regions. The morning session included a visit to the Satu Mare County Council. The headquarter of the institution was visited and there were meetings and discussions with representatives of the County Council. Also, during this visit a press conference was organized, at which representatives of the local mass-media were invited to participate. The press representatives have all received an info-pack on the project and during the press conference the most important aspects of the project *Active YOUth for Europe* were presented. Furthermore, the participants at the exchange had the opportunity to express their impressions on the project but also to ask questions to the representatives of the County Council present at the conference on the institution's involvement in activities for youth. The press conference took place in the session hall of the County Council, simulating in this way a meeting of this institution.



During the afternoon session, the participants have analyzed though presentations and role plays the instruments and ways that regions offer for the active involvement of youth. There were discussed impressions on the morning visit.

The representatives of the Latvian partner were responsible for organizing the Latvian cultural evening, during which they have served snacks, sweets and traditional Latvian products, accompanied by presentations on the geography, culture and national traditions.



#### 10.9.2016: *Evaluation and Youthpass Certificate*

In the penultimate date of the youth mobility organized in Satu Mare, the participants put into practice the volunteering activity prepared some days ago. Thus, they purchased 30 kg of ecological tomatoes from the greenhouses belonging to Stea Association, and they have distributed them in the city center together with the association's flyers in order to raise awareness of the local population on the association's activities and to promote the volunteering spirit among the youth.



The day's first session focused on the project's evaluation based on the individual questionnaires prepared by the Satu Mare County Intercommunity development Association. Each participant was furthermore asked to express its own opinions on the exchange programme. Future plans and commitment shall be made by participants on using the experience in their own environment. Each group was asked to prepare until the evening session a short movie evaluating the project.

The second session of the day focused on the completion by each participant of the Youthpass Certificate with the support of the group leader and having at the basis the reflections from each day in which participants had the opportunity to analyze the main knowledge and key-lessons of the day.

The last cultural evening was organized by the Czech partner that prepared snacks and traditional Czech and Moravian products and presented aspects related to the history, geography and Czech culture.



#### 11.09.2016: *The end of the youth exchange*

Within the last session of the youth exchange, the partners made a planning on the next steps required to ensure the sustainability of the project's results. The project partners have discussed the communication strategy of the project's results. In this sense, there were discussed aspects on the promotion and visibility of the project, as part of the communication strategy, but also the organization of sessions for disseminating the knowledge acquired at the level of each partner, as part of the strategy on the impact of the project.

## **PROJECT'S RESULTS**

The project foresaw to empower the young participants from six new member states of the European Union in which involvement of youth seems to be lower than the average EU (based on available data from European elections 2014) with the necessary knowledge, tools, methods, good and best practices to become active European citizens within their own societies and in Europe in general. The participants at the *Active YOUth for Europe* project, that included formal as well as non-formal learning methods, enhanced or strengthened their abilities for becoming active citizens and for becoming responsible for their own future.

By participating at this youth exchange the youths have acquired not only knowledge but have also developed their sense of responsibility, active citizenship, volunteering, tolerance and mutual understanding and also strengthened their language skills. Furthermore, the reflection and evaluation sessions made it possible for each to be able to self-assess the capacities and abilities acquired due to the requirement for completing their own Youthpass Certificate.

The project has a considerable impact not only upon the participants but also on the participating organization and their own societies. Each participant was encouraged to take back what he/she has learned during the exchange programme and share the information with the members of the organization they are part of and even in other organizations in the society they are members of. Moreover, each participating organization has or will organize a meeting with members and present the project's results and shall try to develop plans on how to use this information and knowledge in order to design activities that contribute directly to raising the level of participation of young people in the life of the community.