



GAIAC on its first experience with EVS

Our DfP partner from Portugal has started out hosting EVS volunteers in 2015 and in the following they have shared with us how it's been so far and what their future plans are.

How did GAIAC come to think that EVS would be a good idea for the organization?

As a small association, our team thought that EVS would be a good way to expand GAIAC'S dynamic through a more continuous impact on the local community since our projects were main-

teers; we sent a volunteer to Denmark and hosted 4 volunteers, 2 from Italy and 2 from Romania.

What GAIAC and/or the local community had needed before EVS and what GAIAC have accomplished through EVS?

GAIAC had the chance to establish protocols with the schools of the



Alex- workshop on Human Rights

ly focused on short term mobilities both in Portugal and in the partner countries of the network. Being an informal and small association, there was the need to create other routines, connections and projects with the community since there were not much contact and knowledge with the EVS projects. GAIAC hosts and sends volun-

community where the volunteers have their main activities. Every volunteer has one or multiple trainings of non-formal education that can be used later in their activities, especially on their personal projects, creating new dynamics and forms of understanding with every participant and also a new space of experimentation inside the schools. For GAIAC, such projects have a broader impact, covering a further type

of work with the community, especially with young people, with the target audience of our projects, and will also be interconnected with the association and potential of mobilities that are promoted and organized.

How did the volunteers adapt to the local live there?

This was a new experience to GAIAC members which brought new perspectives and goals to the team. It was also a new kind of experience to most of the hosted volunteers, once they never had been in a project such as this one abroad, doing activities in schools and working in an association that does



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European projects. One of them had previously

made Erasmus in Porto so it was an interesting experience to live in the same city but in a totally different context All of them were very pleased to work in the schools with youngsters and to have the opportunity to create their own projects. For GAIAC it was an amazing experience too.

What are GAIAC's plans and expectations in the short, medium, long run, about EVS etc?

GAIAC applied for another EVS project and is at the moment waiting for the results. This time we will host 8 volunteers, 4+4, 6 months each and hope to continue the work already started, expanding the impact on the community and the challenge, having more volunteers. GAIAC will repeat the partnership with Italy and Romania and will have a new Greek



partner that are not part of DfP, promoting an enlargement of the European experience and new possibilities for DfP network. GAIAC also wants to keep sending volunteers abroad to the partner associations creating other local and foreign connections.

Things (pros/cons) that

other DfP organizations should take into consideration if/when starting out with EVS.

EVS creates new challenges, new partnership dynamics and new skills for every participant. It's a challenge to have the volunteer selection and then the daily work of them. Also the

logistics so they can develop the project in se-



Roberta and Julia- activities with children

curity, tranquility and happiness. It is a great experience for any association once it gives the chance to work with

people from different cultures and they can bring new perspectives to work done by the association.

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Other news

Drums for Peace general meeting took place in Porto PT between 25-28th of November 2016

The meeting gathered all of the 11 DfP members' representatives who elected a new DfP President, analyzed administration and financial reports and made the calendar for 2017 and 2018.



DfP representatives meeting in Porto, 25-28.11.2016

At the Drums for Peace general-meeting 25-28.11.2016 in Porto (PT), Bo Otterstrøm decided to no longer candidate as the leader of Drums for Peace association, and Antti Nordin was elected as new President. Moreover, members agreed upon most of the recommendations made during DfP board-meeting in March, debated on future directions to be taken in the association and drew the 2017 and 2018 DfP calendar, after having come up with new projects proposals.