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## Where can I find out more?

**ec.europa.eu/youth**  
European Youth Portal: **europa.eu/youth**  
Erasmus+ National Agency in your home country:  
**ec.europa.eu/Erasmus-plus/na**



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# Changing lives, opening minds

## European Voluntary Service

2014-2020



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## Which countries can participate?

Mobility takes place mainly within the 33 programme countries: the 28 Member States of the European Union, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, but also within the 22 neighbouring countries (Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, the Mediterranean region, and south-eastern Europe) and 118 other countries of the world.

*"One year on the European Voluntary Service programme was a University of Life for me, a practical university that I continue now. I learned so many things, I built new life values. I understood what I want from life, how I want to live and spend my time. I learned how to be strong and confident. How to follow my goals!"*

Jevgeniia, 22 years,  
from Ukraine, volunteered in Lithuania

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## What is it?

The European Voluntary Service enables young people to go abroad to provide unpaid service for a maximum of one year. This is a true learning process in which young people face challenges in an unknown environment, and learn to exploit their own potential and abilities by engaging in activities in the field of culture, youth, sport, social care, civil protection, environment, etc.



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## Who can participate?

The scheme is open to young people 17-30 years old (and to disadvantaged young people 16-30). An individual activity involves one volunteer. A group activity involves from 2 to 30 volunteers.

Volunteers benefit from specific training throughout the activity and agree in advance on their expected learning outcomes, processes and methods. Participation is free for the volunteers (except for a possible contribution for the travel costs), who receive board and lodging, insurance cover and an allowance for the duration of the project.



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## How does it work?

Applications can be made by non-profit or non-governmental organisations, regional or local public bodies, international governmental organisations, European governmental organisations, European bodies active in the youth field, and profit-making entities which organise events in youth, sport or culture. Projects involve a partnership between a sending organisation, a hosting organisation and the volunteer, and one of the organisations plays a coordinating role in the grant process.

At the end of the EVS project, the volunteer will receive a certificate confirming the participation and describing the skills and competences gained during the project – the Youthpass.



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