

## ABOUT ACT

Association Communities for Youth is a NGO acting in City of Bailesti South West Oltenia region of Romania.

ACT mission is to develop, implement and support youth development programs built around the concepts of lifelong learning, mobility and associativity. ACT works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives. The aim of this empowerment is to establish a wide-based community movement which encourages the positive involvement of young people in solving issues which affect them, treating them as resources, not as problems.

ACT has implemented over 15 volunteering projects so far, having hosted over 120 volunteers in the last 5 years of experience.

If you want to know more about us, click on the following links:

- [Our ESC Database Entry](#)
- [Our Facebook Page](#)

## Open Call for ACT for Community project- ESC (European Solidarity Corps)

Through this **Open Call** the organization Association Communities for Youth - **ACT** is looking for **Volunteers** for the **ACT for Community project**.

**Type of project:** Mobility for youth – **European Solidarity Corps**

**Venue:** City of **Craiova, Dolj County**, South West part of **Romania**.

**Volunteering positions:** **7**

**ESC Stage Duration:** **6 months -March 2024 to August 2024**

**Profile of the Volunteer we seek:**

- Aged between **18 to 30 years**
- The volunteers who apply for this project need to **like and be willing to work with youth**.
- **Active, open-minded, creative, innovative, responsible and motivated volunteers**
- The volunteers of this project should, above all else, show willingness to **learn** and see their **experience** as a **learning process**.
- **Basic level of English** (being able to make herself/himself understood by the others – able to communicate).

This is a long read, here is the shortest possible version:

*You will be a volunteer and work with youth for 6 months in Craiova, Romania.*

*All expenses are covered by us and you will learn a lot and have lots of fun.*

## Why chose ACT and be part of our project?

- ACT is an NGO specialized in providing quality volunteering experiences having hosted over 120 ESC volunteers in the past
- We have staff with over 8 years' experience in managing ESC project
- We offer the chance to get involved in a very wide range of activities, allowing you to pick and choose what interest you most
- We work using participatory planning, you get a chance to provide input in all activities that you will be a part of
- We offer a robust learning methodology for the volunteer that seeks to ensure you will leave the project a better person
- We work with a wide network of local partners (NGO's, educational institutions, social inclusion and assistance, cultural institutions, etc.) to help different kinds of local youth
- The work we do here is important and provides disadvantaged youth with access to otherwise unavailable opportunities

## What will I DO in the ACT for Community project?

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The activity aims to respond to the need of diversifying the range of opportunities for personal and professional development, aiming for increased knowledge, skills and competences for the **target** group (youth aged 12 to 18) and volunteers. We provide a range of non-formal education opportunities by implementing activities that integrate positive youth development principles into the formal education system and to promote an increased volunteering awareness.

### GENERAL OBJECTIVE

ACT is committing to ensuring that young people have the knowledge, skills, and motivation to be effective civic participants who bring their values to public decision-making. To do this we are partnering with schools and local administration from Craiova to bring non-formal education to their beneficiaries.

The general objective of the project is to provide personal and professional opportunities for 300 students in Craiova by implementing non-formal development programmes and workshops centered around 3 inter-weaving topics: solidarity and social inclusion, active citizenship and eco-friendly behaviours.

**Concretely, as a volunteer in our project you will be involved in the following:**

- **Beneficiary/institutions needs analysis** - we will implement several needs analysis methods such as surveys, panel and round table discussions with staff and students of the partner institutions, non-formal games, role play etc.
- **Leadership Development programme** - workshops using non-formal methods to transmit information, knowledge and develop skills competencies (Facilitation; Negotiation; Public speaking; Decision; Dealing with changes; Dealing with crisis; Working with difficult/challenging people; Communication techniques; Team work, Motivation etc. ) and attitudes (Motivation to work for better results; Self-confidence; Being organized; Tolerance; Valuing diversity) related to leadership.
- **Implement facilitation and consensus building activities** - workshops aimed at encouraging the youth to aggregate around common issues. These range from non-formal games that encourage youth to discuss and debate issues, games to help with problem tree analysis, to games designed to inspire and call to action to simple meetings that are run with facilitation methods and principles such as “The Spokes council” or similar methods.
- **Designing solidarity initiatives/projects** – as a volunteer, you will be involved in planning, organizing and implementing non-formal workshops with the beneficiaries to:
  - a )rise the beneficiaries knowledge and skills in project planning/writing;
  - b) brainstorm/generate/identify solutions for issues identified in earlier stages;
  - c)design a plan of action(chose activities, define timeframes, identify resources needed);
- **Promotion of Active Citizenship** – non-formal workshops, games, events that aim at the development of pro-EU, pro-democratic and civic skills, competences and attitudes, Increased awareness and knowledge; about EU institutions and topics and issues of EU importance; Increased level of European Active citizenship and civic engagement. These can be debates about EU topics, simulation of EU parliament, role play, local news agency game, etc.
- **Stimulating creativity and cultural awareness programme:** will capitalize on cultural diversity among volunteer and will contain activities such as presentations of volunteers cultures, non-formal workshops on traditional arts & crafts, traditional

dances and music, arts workshops (painting, clay modeling, singing, handicrafts), theatre, role play, creative play (use familiar materials in a new or unusual ways), problem solving (application of knowledge and imagination to a given situation).

- **Learning languages programme:** under the form of language clubs that use non-formal methods (games, workshops, movies, songs, role-plays, handicrafts, flash cards etc.) to help the participant learn or strengthen their ability to speak other languages
- **Environmental awareness and skill development workshops** – these activities utilize various non-formal methods, some developed internally in past project, others collected from partners and online handbook while new ones will be developed with the volunteers during the planning meetings.
- **Promotion of volunteering and the Solidarity Corps** – running volunteering promotion campaigns and activities at local level. These activities will include designing awareness building messages and materials (flyers, posters, brochures), organizing presentations, distributing materials, online promotion, organizing a final project conference on the topic of volunteering and social inclusion. The main target groups for the campaign will be young people in terminal years of high school, university students and unemployed young people

The above mentioned activities are the general overview but **each volunteer has the opportunity to propose, implement and carry on new types of activities based on previous experiences, personal preferences, skills and abilities and well as have direct control over the methods used to implement the activities.**

## What will I learn in ACT for Community project?

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Our methodology of learning by doing or experiential learning places the volunteer at the center of his/her learning process and encourage commitment to it. Each volunteer will have a personalized development plan that targets personal skills as well as professional skills, a mentor to help guide the volunteer and a counterpart to guide him in working with the target group in the working institutions.

In the project we will be employing a Learning by doing methodology based on a 4 cyclical stages model:

1. **Concrete Experience** – going out and engaging with the activity
2. **Reflection** on that experience on a personal basis – self-reflection and guided reflection assisted by the mentor which aims at derivation of general rules describing the experience, or the application of previous experiences and knowledge to it
3. **Abstract Conceptualization** – supported by the participatory planning model and dynamic role distribution practiced the management team. In this stage the management helps the volunteer in the ways of modifying the next occurrence of the experience

4. **Active Experimentation** – turning the abstract into concrete activities and restarting the cycle at no.1

All throughout the learning process and the project **you will be assisted by the ACT team** and a **personal mentor** in managing what, when and how you learn all these skills.

At the end you will receive a **Youthpass certificate** which is a **European Instrument for recognition and certification of skills** acquired in ESC

## Practical Arrangements & Financial aspects

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**Travel:** ACT will purchase **flight tickets** while the Sending Organisation will make sure that the volunteer is well informed, has all documents and gets safely on board.

**Local transport:** will be **covered by ACT**, upon arrival they will receive info on how to use public transport, a map of the transit lines etc.

**Accommodation:** ACT will host the volunteers **in rented apartments** in the **city of Craiova**. Each accommodation will assure **good living conditions** (private beds, equipped kitchen and bathroom, heating system, running cold/ hot water, Wi-Fi).

**!Please note that you will share the room (2 volunteers per room, separate single beds).**

**Working programme:** working hours are flexible and adapted to the schedule of the target institutions and is usually **3-4 hours/day with the youngsters of the target group and 1-2 hours/day for preparing the activities.**

Each volunteer is entitled to receiving **2 free days/week** (typically weekends, but in case that an activity requires work on the weekend the volunteer will be free in the next days) and a total of **12 days of vacation in the project** (2/month) that you can use as you want.

**Language support:** The volunteers receive Romanian language lessons **2 sessions per week for the first 5 months and 1 session per week** for the rest of the project.

**Communication:** each volunteer will receive a **Romanian SIM cards** for mobile phones which will be recharged monthly.

**Financial aspects:** International travel, local transport, accommodation and utility fees, monthly communication costs, costs related to activities **are covered directly by ACT.**

**You will receive a Monthly food allowance: 150 euro/month and a monthly Pocket money: 120 euro/month.** These will be paid directly to the volunteer by ACT, in local currency (RON), at the beginning of each month.

## What support will be available during your mobility?

**You will have a mentor available** for the entire duration of your volunteering stage. **The mentor** will be responsible for **the general personal support of the volunteer**. They are in charge of **solving practical problems** arising being the "first line of support" available. They will be the **volunteer's go-to person for any personal problems** as well as being responsible for **guiding the volunteer** through the **learning process**. The mentor will be there to help you identify **learning needs** and **opportunities** help you **plan** your learning process and help in the **self-evaluation**.

**The counterparts** (staff from the schools – **teachers/professionals**)-that will be **supporting the volunteers in the actual implementation process of the activities**. They will provide the volunteers with professional support in delivering their activities.

**Additional support** will be offered by ACT in the form **Preparation, Adaptation and Training programme** which is a programme designed to transmit all the necessary skill and abilities for the project focusing on skills and abilities building programme, providing them with methods, tools and materials that will support and facilitate their activities in the project.

## Have we caught your attention? Here`s how to apply!

1. Prepare a CV (preferably using the Europass model <https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/documents/curriculum-vitae> ) and a motivation letter and send them to [officengo.act@gmail.com](mailto:officengo.act@gmail.com)
2. We will reply and schedule an **online interview** with you
3. We announce if you have been selected and we prepare the paperwork

If you are interested and want more information you can also [CONTACT US AT](#)

Email: [officengo.act@gmail.com](mailto:officengo.act@gmail.com)