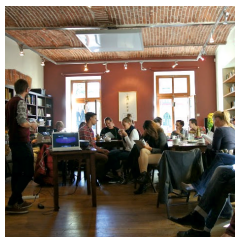


VAPE VOLUNTEERING IN CENTRAL, EAST AND WEST EUROPE - A PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT



VAPE

In 2012 a partnership started to foster and exchange learning experiences of staff in adult education, or staff in the area of volunteering across Europe. Through 6 transnational seminars 10 partners from 9 countries in Central, East and West Europe have been exploring ways to stimulate the employability of young volunteers.

Free will

Nowadays volunteering across Europe is seen more and more as a pathway to employment. Especially for unemployed young adults with fewer opportunities in the age of 18-30 years. Volunteering refers to all types of voluntary activities (formal, non-formal, informal), undertaken by a person's own free will, choice and motivation, without concern for financial gain. How can we stimulate volunteering without a compulsory element? How can we motivate and educate people with acknowledgement and recognition of historical backgrounds?

Recommendations

Creativity, quality and commitment makes it happen. Invest in a social network, appreciate voluntary contributions of people in your own organisation and provide something back to the community as well. Make young adults feel at home in your organisation or in your community.

Cross-sectorial approach creates a strong local infrastructure on volunteering. Stimulate local cooperation between different work fields in the area of

volunteering work in order to create more chances for young vulnerable young people (new project development, local infrastructure, lobby work etc.). Approach other organisations in your own area.

Invite or send young adults across Europe, starting with just 1 or 2 persons, and invest in their environment during the period of volunteering work. For example through the European Voluntary service (EVS) of the EU Programme Erasmus+. The VAPE partners have reliable EVS-partners for you.

Awareness

Volunteering exists in all EU countries. Voluntary activities are often invisible or in some countries not even called 'volunteering'. Please remember that voluntary activities are all formal, non-formal, and informal activities, undertaken by a person's own free will, choice and motivation, without concern for financial gain. Appreciate and recognise all forms of volunteering in your community.

Keep in mind that someone's internal motivation will be the strongest motivation to use voluntary work as a pathway to employment.

Benefit from the experiences in Central, East and West Europe, and approach one of the project partners if you want more information.

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<http://vape.yes-forum.eu>



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