

## Report “YES to Volunteering!” 2<sup>nd</sup> Complementary Activity Strategic EVS – Groningen (NL), 9-11 October 2018



The “YES to Volunteering!” Strategic EVS will implement **19 European Voluntary Services by mid-2020**. The project will ensure **accessibility to young people facing additional obstacles** compared to their peers. To foster ideal conditions for the exchange of European Volunteers, the partnership gathered **in Groningen (NL) on 9-11 October**. This **2nd Staff Training** focused on how to provide the best support to volunteers.

### Participants

The training involved both (1) Organisations already experienced in EVS, to reinforce their skills and share their knowledge, tools and ideas; (2) Newcomers, to learn best practices before sending or hosting their first European Volunteers.

The meeting was even the opportunity to welcome a new partner! The *Municipality of Midden-Groningen* together with the youth club *Jong Goud Slocheteren* jumped on board thanks to YeToVo’s promotion of volunteering!

### YeToVo’s 2nd Staff Training

Quality support from Sending and Hosting Organisations is essential to make volunteering abroad a life-changing learning experience. That is why, on 9th and 10th October, participants exchanged tools, methods and ideas on **how to provide the best support to European Volunteers** before, during and after their EVS. In different sessions, they addressed how to:

- **Recruitment:** reach young people with fewer opportunities and ensure a good match with the EVS.
- **Preparation:** efficiently prepare volunteers before their departure, especially on crucial topics such as administrative support, learning process, intercultural and personal aspects?
- **Welcome and on-site Support:** ensure the volunteers’ well-being and strengthen their learning experience?
- **Making the best of EVS:** help volunteers make the best use of EVS for future personal/professional projects?

### “International Internships & Volunteering Market”!

On 11th October, YeToVo partners were joined by additional YES Forum members to strengthen YeToVo’s **promotion of volunteering and European mobility** through an “*International Internships & Volunteering Market*”. Thanks to the collaboration with the Hanze University, they met local young people, social work students, and even youth/ social workers!

They discussed available opportunities to experience European mobility in the youth & social field, like volunteering with EVS and the new **European Solidarity Corps**, but also concrete internship opportunities within the YES Forum network!

For more about the project, simply check the “YeToVo!” website, or have a look at **all pictures here!**

## Programme

9 October		
13:00 – 14:00	Welcome Lunch	
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Introduction Recruitment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview of the YeToVo! Project: News, Progress, Objectives</li> <li>- How to find the right volunteer?</li> </ul>
15:00 – 16:00	<b>Preparation of the Volunteer</b>	A little game to find out how to be well prepared together!
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30 – 18:30	<b>Welcoming and Support: A happy volunteer = A good EVS experience</b>	Group work to reflect on how to welcome the volunteer, and how to support the EVS to make his/her experience a success.
19:30	Dinner	

10 October		
9:30 – 11:00	<b>Capitalization of the EVS experience</b>	Brainstorming on the best way to recognize the EVS experience, and how volunteers can make the best out of this recognition to fulfil future personal or professional plans.
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Summary &amp; Practical questions</b>	Further reflections with concrete cases from experienced partners. New round of matching Sending & Hosting Organisations to design concrete plans for the implementation of remaining EVS placements.
<i>Afternoon</i>	<i>Internal YES Forum Meeting</i>	<i>Project Planning Meeting</i>

11 October		
09:00 – 12:00	<b>International Internship and Volunteering Market</b>	Opportunity to present your organisation and promote European mobility & volunteering towards students of the Hanzehogeschool, as well as young people and even social & youth workers from Groningen and its neighbourhood!
12:00 – 12:45	Lunch	