

BIZ BUBBLE



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How the European Voluntary Service can enrich your life

There is plenty options how to get employable experience before real working life. Maybe you are not sure about your current education path. Or you miss the language skills. If you have already found yourself here, it is time to find out how European Union can help you in this way. What would you like the most is that it cost you no money and it is open for inexperienced young people or people belonging to social disadvantaged or any vulnerable groups as well.

The European Solidarity Corp (ESC) is the platform created by European Union. The goal is to overcoming the difficulties, which have the graduates when it comes to their first steps on the job market. It offers the opportunities to get the employment-related skills through various activities. You can go as volunteer for 6 months to any European country and contribute to the valuable goals of non-profit organisations, e. g. learning the children English language. Or if you want to gain the skills in exact field of your professional interest or the field of your study you can apply for a traineeship project or directly jobs.

You can participate in the volunteering team. You can try it during your study or after, there is only age limitation (18 up to 30 years). On the website of ESC you can find the database of the organisations offering different kind of projects, in different EU countries, focusing on various topics.

In this volume we would like to introduce the particular activity, known as European Voluntary Service – it is the old name, there are some structural changes from last year, but the purpose is still the same. We don't want to talk generally, so we asked our friends, ex-volunteers about their volunteering. Our respondents have quite different backgrounds which influenced their decisions.

European Voluntary Service

- **Who is in?** Young people between 18 – 30 years old, Sending organisation, Hosting organisation
- **How long?** Short-term EVS (2 weeks – less than 2 months) or Long-term EVS (2 -12 months)
- **Where?** EU and Partners countries
- **Help of the EU?** Financial support (travel costs, accommodation, pocket money, food allowance)
- **What to do?** Project activities following organisation's and European Union's goals.

[More information about the European Solidarity Corps \[FAQs\]](#)

Why did you apply for EVS project?

Mirko (20): The reason was to gain an experience. I mean to meet new people, live abroad, develop and improve my skills. It was also like the break in my life after high school. I really like the ideas behind volunteering and the flexibility to choose project, country and activities.

Nikola (28): I was thinking about the opportunities of living abroad and improving my English as I felt that I need it for my work. Because I am hesitant person I have never been on student Erasmus. I already work more than 3 years and thanks to this I have opportunity to work with volunteers. I was impressed by them. I mean that someone is willing to spend her or his leisure time for helping someone else. That is why I chose European voluntary service as the right way to experience abroad life. And of course I liked that EU can cover my expenses.

What did you like the most about your EVS?

M: Daily challenges. I pretty like to make radio show. We talk about youth problems with interesting hosts, we motivate them how to overcome some daily challenges and so on. I like to practice communication skills. I can tell you what I don't like or actually I didn't like. For example when I have any task and I don't have enough tools to make it well. On the other side I found out how to solve the problem and how to work with limited sources. Exactly, that is it how it works in real life.



Nikola on her short term EVS in Bulgaria. She and Joao (other volunteer) organised the plogging.

N: Before my EVSI told myself that whatever it will be, I will do all my best to take all the benefits from this experience. For me there was commitment to spend efficiently the time in Bulgaria, because I perceived it like "the last chance". And also I appreciated that my boss agreed with unpaid holidays. I need to say that I felt many times that I must to struggle for the opportunity to do something meaningful. My hosting organisation didn't prepare for us many things to do. But on the other side my positive attitude helped me to overcome this setting and alongside with other volunteer we turned our own idea into action and organised the event. And our

organisation supported us in this way. Thanks the EVS I prevented myself before burn out, I started jogging after years.

Did you think that it help you in your future career?

M: My purpose of this experience is to make something for my life not for my career. But of course yes, I believe that it will help me in my future career as well. I appreciate that I can gain soft skills useful for everyday life – how to getting along with my housemates, how to communicate, how to overcome the challenges. It opens your mind. When I compare myself now and before the project, I perceive the big growing-up potential of this experience.

N: Yes, actually it has helped already. Thanks to this experience and having profile in the database of ESC I was found by organisation, which has offered me a job through occupational opportunities of ESC.

Would you like recommend our readers and potential volunteers?

M: I think that important is if you are convinced about this type of experience. I mean, that if you see it as right decisions, I am sure that you shouldn't be worried. You will see after few first days that all doubts, fears or regrets were wasteful.



Mirko is on the long-term EVS in Cyprus. He is helping his hosting organisation with organising the Youth exchange

N: I think that everyone who desire for abroad experience, should consider volunteering. You can feel the mutual benefits. For instance I will never forget how we visited the women with mental or physical disabilities and how physical presence made them unbelievably happy. I think that if more people experience the volunteering, we can live better and more peaceful lives everywhere.

Can personality tests tell what the best job for you is? Let's find out with us

Someone would say that nowadays we have lots of information and it must be easy to make a decision about our future job. But it is really true? How many times did you feel confused after reading dozens articles about the job selection? And finally when you feel that you know what to do, your friend tells you: "No, this is really not for you!" And what's about your parents? Let me guess. They perfectly know, much better than you, what your skills are and what you will do on your career pathway. Afterwards you are again in the beginning and asking how to find out what is best job for you.



Professions

Upon completion of the Emiero test we will show you which professions suits you best and which ones you should avoid.

Let us help you! No, we really won't tell you what you exactly shall do. We would like to introduce you the tools which can help you uncover your talents, your skills and what your personality typology tells about the best career pathway for you. No parents, no friends, but only you and your honest answers on the test's questions play the key role.

There are many tests you can find on the internet. We suggested to our friend Pepe the one so called "[Emiero test](#)". This test is used by career consultants and you can find it on the internet. What does the test tell him? Did his expectations about his personality match the results of the test?

EMIERO TEST measure psychological preferences in how people perceive the world and make their decisions. These preferences were derived from the typological theories proposed by Carl Gustav Jung. He believed that there were four basic psychic functions through which we experience the world: sentiment, intuition, attitude and thinking. One of these four functions predominates for most of the time.

The test has two versions. The first one, which we chose, is the shorter and includes 20 questions. The second one is more precise with 60 questions. Actually there are not questions but phrases. The participant needs to choose on the five-level range (agree – disagree), if the phrase matches his or her own attitudes or not. The website has Slovak, Hungarian and English version. After finishing the test you received the complex results on your email. You can find out more about your personality – what is your mix of characteristics which determine your capability to having the skills necessary for certain jobs. There is the complex description of your personality type and the list of

the jobs suiting to you and the list of the job positions you should avoid.

Before Pepe started the test we made short discussion with him. He told us that he really likes to talk and works with people. Pepe considered himself full of the ideas, creative and funny. Particularly, in his free time he likes playing the guitar, doing beat box, writing poems and making the video presentations. Pepe is young man with quite many, but short work experiences.



Josef Pokuta alias Pepe

Pepe is 24 years old, he was born in Prague. Pepe studied on vocational school and gained the skills for working in restaurant as the cook. Since finishing school he has changed more ten 10 various job positions. Right now he is looking for the new opportunity. This is the reason why he applied for youth exchange focused on unemployment of youth. He wants to learn English, meet new people and gain competences to help him finding the new more suitable job. His hobbies are playing guitar and making beat box.

Pepe made the test around 20 minutes. Sometimes he had difficulties to understand the phrase,

but we overcame it together very well. Usually for instance if the client of employment agencies cannot catch the meaning of phrase in the test, the career consultant helps him.

What are Pepe's results? The Emiero test suggests that Pepe's personality is so called "Champion." Only 5 % of population has this type of personality. The key characteristic of these people is they fix on people and values rather than things or objects. Encouraging and helping others is what makes them really happy. The test also confirmed what Pepe told us about himself. According these results Pepe is very creative person, mostly relating the things that people like. On the others side typical for him is starting to work on more things than he can finish. In professional way the test says that people like Pepe *"have really broad selection, and are able to succeed in several areas. They are warm, enthusiastic, entertaining, natural, inventive, of cheerful mind, imaginative, and they can manage almost anything they show an interest in. They are good especially where they can co-operate with people."*

Champion's characteristics
Hearty and enthusiastic
Non-organised
Entertaining and spontaneous, very creative
They need approval of others
Able to think abstractly and understand complex conceptions
Strong communication skills

Pepe was also surprised that three of all unsuited professions from the test

he actually tried in the past and he did not like it.

Suited professions for Pepe	Unsuited professions for Pepe
Actor	Painter
Caricaturist	Company lawyer
Sales person of non-materials products ...	Driver ...

We also asked for opinions other young people participating on this youth exchange. Annaelle from Martinique agrees that it is important to match the skills with the requirements of the job positions. She illustrates her attitude through position of social assistance in home-care. *"I think that only a person who loves to chat, active listens, likes the housework, could work as social work for elder people. It should be the person with patience, responsibility and empathy."*

To sum up, you can find lots of information about the best jobs ever, you can hear thousand tips of your parents, friends and friends of your friends, but they never tell you more than your personality. Believe yourself; explore your inner attitudes, preferences and talents.

No more avoiding the uncomfortable truths. Open Some Eyes with...



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Career Advice for the Undecided

How do you choose the right career without wasting time and money? It is common that a lot of millennials study a field based on their parents, friends or society influence. And when they get in the real job environment they realize that they hate it. So what is the right path to choose your future career?



1. Try many things

Don't be afraid to experiment, to get involved with a few different things and then evaluate what you like better and what you like worse. It is an elimination process. If you don't try you won't know so the knowledge that comes with each experience even bad, is powerful.

2. Fail. Then fail better

Failing can guide you and teach you in which areas you are better at and in which you are bad and in which you need improvement. So you can either develop yourself or walk away from what you dislike.

3. Listen to yourself and at what you are naturally driven to.

Pay attention to what catches your interest, what you enjoy doing follow your instinct and you will discover a lot job opportunities related to your passion.

4. Network

Spend time and energy to get to know people from different work environments and ask questions. You may discover jobs that you didn't know existed.

The journey of identifying and pursuing our passion and purpose has no timeline. What you once enjoyed as a kid you may not enjoy it older etc. So, the key is to listen to your heart and learn to adapt to changes. As long as you do something that inspires you, you will have a fulfilling career and life.



The secrets of a girlboss

The founder of UtopiaMedia and famous youtuber Katy Pansiou, talks about the ups and downs of starting her first company and how she has been able to productize her unique attitude and brand name.

So Katy, you grow up in the millennial generation. How easy was it for you growing and deciding what you want to do with your life?

So since I can remember myself I always was with a camera in my hand. I was interested in photography and video making and I knew that I couldn't fit to a regular 9-5 job. So, step by step per day I tried to get better and follow my instinct. Even though, there were times I felt stuck and disappointed, I didn't give up and always tried to push on and find new ideas.

And how did your youtube fame come?

For a long time, I created content for just a little audience. But as the time passed I got more well-connected and collaborated with other brands and YouTubers and improved the quality and quantity of my producing skills.

What are some challenges that you had to face?

Coming up with new original ideas and stayed motivated. Also keeping engaged my audience, because there are always new

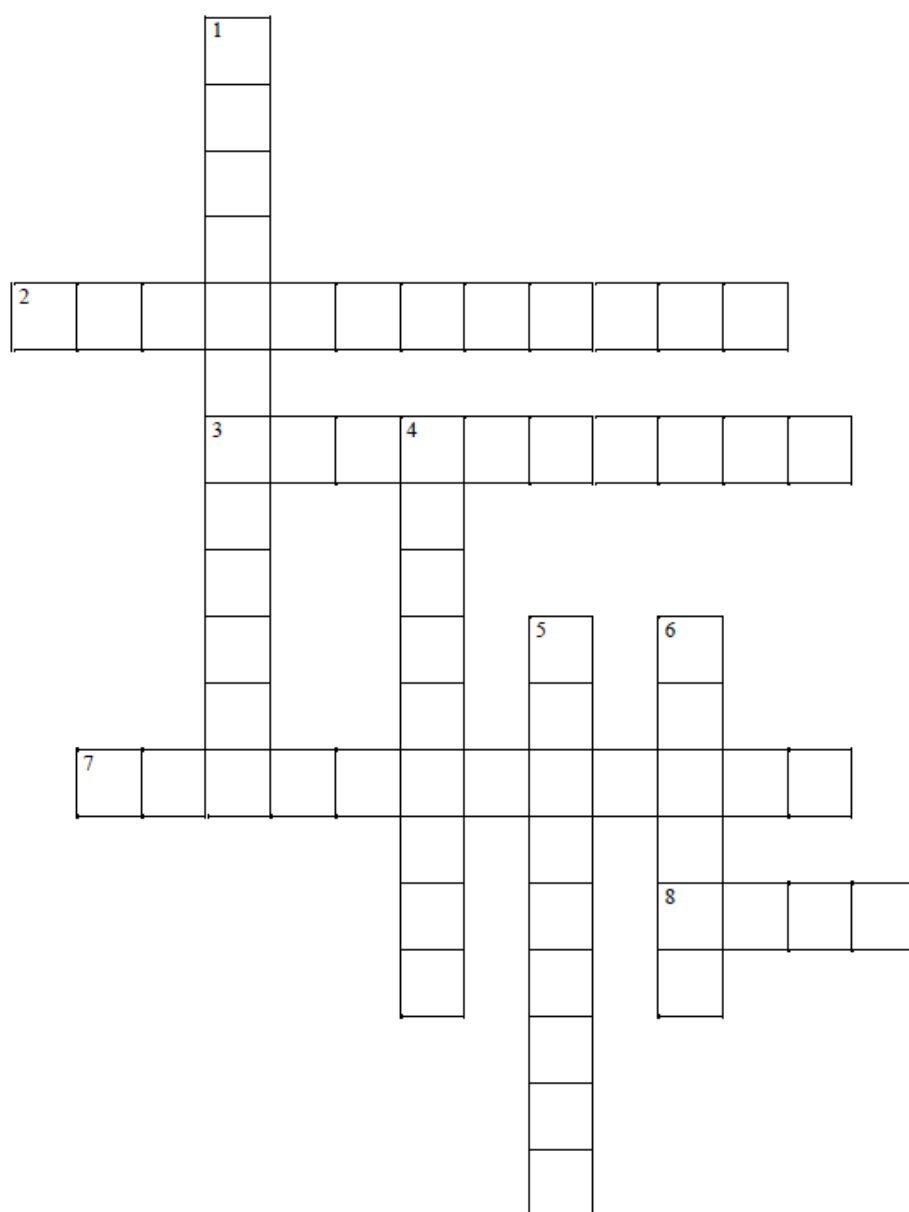
YouTubers making the competition harder. UtopiaMedia is a successful launching company that brings the Youtube community closer. If talented content creators work together, instead of against each other, we can provide awesome entertainment. Also, we provide to the less privileged the chance to rent our studios and equipment and give them some guidance. I wanted to found my own community with the same passion: creation.



Which is do you think the key of your business success?

The internet community is thriving. I invested in the right timing, when there was a need in the market. We also didn't stop being consistent. In Utopiamedia from our photo-video shooting to our design and copywriting every small choice is an opportunity to strengthen our brand. Everyone in team is incredible and works hard to evolve it.

Do's and Don'ts on a CV



Across

- 2. ...order from the oldest achievements to the newest
- 3. You can gain new... by everything you do.
- 7. Responsibility, adaptability, teamwork and leadership are...
- 8. No more than two pages

Down

- 1. When you do something for free.
- 4. Because of this you are more knowledgeable.
- 5. You can learn Greek, Italian, Turkish, Polish, Romanian, Slovakian etc.
- 6. Computer, communication, management...