



Colour Your Dreams Association

Welcome to ARTclusion project!

Here you will find all the necessary details to convince you to join our project as a volunteer! Just scroll the pages and read with an open heart!

WHO WE ARE

The Association Colour Your Dreams has been created in 2016 and it is based in Targu Jiu, Gorj County, Romania.

It builds on the previous experience of founding members and active staff in the area of working with children and youth with fewer opportunities, with a special focus on children with disabilities and those coming from rural, low income families, subject to social exclusion. The founding members are also involved actively as teachers in the Center School for Inclusive Education. Moreover, the staff has been trained in international contexts on topics related to European Citizenship, Active Citizenship, training of trainers, youth work methodologies and instruments, anti-discrimination and approach in working with youth with mixed abilities (integration of youth with disabilities in the community, alongside youth with no disabilities), human rights, education for parents of children with disabilities.

Therefore, the association is purposely built around the need to contribute towards facilitation of inclusion of youth with fewer opportunities, having an integrated approach by targeting capacity building at the level of youth workers, youth and community stakeholders, such as parents, teachers, but also NGOs and public authorities.

The Association is also a founding member of the County Youth Foundation from Gorj, Romania, aimed at providing youth in Gorj county with constant opportunities for personal and professional development.

Over the past two years, the association has signed more than 40 partnerships with several institutions, high schools, and NGOs to meet the organization's goals. One of the most important ones is the one with the County Direction of Sports and Youth Gorj, carrying out all the activities of its Youth Center. In all activities has collaborated with over 2500 young people in the community.

We invite you to visit our Facebook page – Association Colour Your Dreams

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The aim of this project is to support social inclusion of youth with intellectual and physical disabilities through multicultural experiences and art-based therapies. In order to support reaching the aim of the project, the following objectives have been formulated:

- Build the competences of 10 volunteers from 5 different countries during 6 months of service in terms of creating meaningful learning and social experiences for youth with mental and physical disabilities: competency to understand and deploy art-based methodologies, solid competencies in project management, event organizing and intercultural dialogue;

- Strengthen the competencies among 10 volunteers from 5 different countries, at least 180 students with mental and physical disabilities, at least 40 teachers to design and deploy community events aimed at building a positive and inclusive image of youth with fewer opportunities as change agents for promoting diversity at local, national and international level;

- Build motivation of 10 volunteers from 5 different countries, of at least 40 teachers and 50 representatives of local educational institutions, NGOs and youth interested in volunteering to further create and integrate inclusive activities as a basis for solidarity actions within their communities.

These objectives will be supported by relevant activities that volunteers will have the opportunity to organize based on their needs and with responsibility towards their learning process.

The volunteering activities will take place mainly in the Center for Inclusive Education in Targu Jiu and in at least 10 other schools in Gorj County, working with more than 200 youth and over 40 teachers, during 12 month service.

DURATION OF THE STAGE

The volunteering stage is 12 months, starting September 1st, 2020 and ending August 31st, 2021.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Your preparation will be supported through at least 4 2-day trainings that will be delivered in the first weeks of your arrival:

- How to create an effective learning process – aims at building the understanding around what a learning process is, what learning needs and styles are, how to formulate and operationalize learning objectives, explore personal challenges towards learning and how to overcome them; clarifying the role of the mentor in supporting the learning process and also the roles of every stakeholder in the project;

- Intercultural dialogue/ learning – aims at exploring and positively acknowledging cultural differences and transforming them in resources for learning; exploring means of dealing with conflicts and differences;

- Project management – aims at building the competences of volunteers to think of their interventions in terms of projects, in a strategic manner, understanding the context and the added value of their solution plus the necessity of coordinated actions instead of isolated ones;

- Event organizing – aims at strengthening their capacity to design and implement community activities where youth with mental and physical disabilities can showcase the results of their work during the workshops with the volunteers, can interact with community members and build positive outlook on inclusion. An important aspect is that in all these community activities the volunteers will need to liaise with various stakeholders, build partnerships and coordinate youth to contribute and play an active role.

YOUR PROFILE

The volunteers that will say yes to the content and service conditions will be invited to participate in a Skype interview with the project team to better know each other and test through concrete examples the following selection criteria that they will also get to know before the Skype meeting:

- Interest in working with children with disabilities – it can be linked to a present and/or future career path preference, to working with their hands (crafts), to being around children;
- Curiosity about learning, about personal and professional development;
- Positive attitude towards learning
- Open, teamwork, emotionally available, good communication skills;
- Open to sharing with others;
- Responsible – able to follow through an established program;
- Empathetic – able to understand and relate to community issues, understanding of social challenges.

We will look for concrete, specific details that support the criteria – examples, personal stories, etc. Open dialogue will be facilitated and also we will explore fears and expectations in relation to the tasks that the volunteers will need to deploy. All questions will be answered in order to make sure that the selected volunteers have a clear understanding on what opportunities and challenges await their personal and professional development during the service.

YOUR ACTIVITIES

As you know, the overall pandemic context is still uncertain and, as much as we would like to be able to give clear answers and guidelines, we can offer 2 scenarios:

- Full offline contact
- Blended contact – online and offline activities with youth

However, in all scenarios, you will be able to work with youth with mental and physical disabilities from the Center for Inclusive Education in Targu Jiu, those in foster families and from at least 10 other schools from the county.

You will be introduced to participatory art methods such as forum theatre, living library, photo voice that will allow you to organize performances in the community to raise awareness about discrimination and difficulty to integrate of youth with mental and physical disabilities.

You will work with kids and youth, in schools, in connection to the curriculum:

- educational therapies - ludo therapy, music therapy, painting, drawing that will be accompanied by cognitive therapy, psycho movement therapy, ergo therapy - all aimed at building personal and social autonomy. These therapies consist in practical activities with the youth, accompanied by teachers/ educators, in order to get to know the youth and better understand how to work with them - knowing their preferences, anticipating reactions, assessing the relevance of different methods;

- pre-professionalizing activities - activities aimed at strengthening manual abilities of youth that will enter high school and vocational training, also based on art, hand work
- painting, fretwork, sensory experiences - play and movement.

- socializing activities - aimed at building life skills - youth are taken out of the school, into the community and taught how to behave/ react with the surrounding and execute basic tasks - cross the street, make groceries, use public transportation, etc. This is also done through mini role-plays where youth are set in different situations and they need to react.

- There is also a painting circle within the school - once you have learned how to work with youth, you can take on autonomous activities that they can lead for the youth in order to also prepare the community events. Materials for clay modelling, pottery wheel will be bought in order to also set up a pottery workshop where you can further develop their abilities and also create, together with youth, different products that can be displayed during community events.

- Erasmus Club present in the school - teachers, educators and youth work on different tasks within Erasmus Plus projects that are under implementation and where artistic skills are very sought for. You will also get involved in working with youth so that they can create different artifacts. Thus, you will also get a thorough understanding about another EU program, Erasmus Plus, that could further be used to amplify acquired knowledge and skills.

YOUR ACCOMODATION

You will share an apartment or a house (depending on the rent available facilities) with other volunteers, in Targu Jiu. There are different scenarios:

- 2 3-room apartments

- 1 big house

However, in each scenario, you will need to share your room with another volunteer – same gender.

If you are interested, please contact adelavladoiu@yahoo.com no later than June 15th, 2020, and let's explore together how you can join our project!