

# YOUth Have The Voice!

*European Voluntary Service  
to Overcome Youth Unemployment  
and Spread Awareness*

## e-Booklet



Erasmus+

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## THE PROJECT COORDINATOR & HOST ORGANIZATION VALENCIA, SPAIN

The **European Intercultural Association - GoEurope** was founded in Valencia with the aim of promoting an international spirit aligned with the common European cultural objectives. GoEurope promotes the intercultural dialogue, exchange of knowledge and European awareness through the active participation of young people, organisations and companies, in projects involving mobility, education and growth. Nonetheless the Association represents a tool to directly support both private and public entities, by directly involving them in European projects and initiatives of interest. Our goal is to promote lifelong learning and transnational mobility of youth and professionals, with the ultimate vision of developing innovation by sharing knowledge and fostering strategic collaborations among partners all over Europe.

GoEurope is based in Valencia. The city synonym of commerce and culture, cinema, theater, museums, music and business. It is an international design center and one of the busiest cities in Europe. Thanks to its location, Valencia has historically been Spain's door to the Mediterranean, and has the special charm of the cities that are seaports. In addition, the proximity of the coastal mountain range lends the Valencian coast a unique attractive.

**Website** [www.goeurope.es](http://www.goeurope.es)

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/goeurope.es>

**Twitter** [https://twitter.com/goeurope\\_es](https://twitter.com/goeurope_es)

**Instagram** <https://www.instagram.com/goeuropevalencia>

**LinkedIn** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/goeurope>



## THE SENDING ORGANIZATION THESSALONIKI, GREECE

**Alter Ego Ngo** is a volunteering organization based in Northern Greece, Thessaloniki. It specializes in fields such as art, culture, environmental issues, social inclusion and promoting and supporting human rights. Many projects of Alter Ego are conducted on both a formal and informal basis and through these educational projects and activities, the organization hopes to motivate young people and encourage them to be more active, be better informed and participate in European programs.

Thanks to the nature of Alter Ego's work and activities, they are able to engage with a diverse group of young people, all of whom have different characteristics and ideals; there is often a challenge when attempting to integrate those from outside Europe, but the benefits outweigh any discrepancies that may occur.

The differences in culture among those who participate make the program unique and offers an eye-opening challenge. Over time, Alter Ego has collected many distinctive methods and as a partner organization, they are to elaborate upon and exchange their methods and good practices with other organizations, both those from Europe and beyond.

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/AlterEgoBasement>

**Youtube** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAgM5ApENbd1OpXuD9B8TYw>



## THE PROJECT

**YOUth Have The Voice!:"European Voluntary Service to Overcome Youth Unemployment and Spread Awareness"** is a European Voluntary Service project with the duration of 12 months, that was held in Valencia (Valencian Community, Spain) and has been designed so that Aikaterini Symeonidou, a 26 years old volunteer from Greece (sending organization: Alter Ego ngo) could play an active and versatile role in the implementation of GoEurope activities.

These activities have been focused on supporting the creation of new job prospects, give advice and inform young unemployed Spaniards, about the job opportunities, mobility and training activities available, as well as collaborating at their implementation.

These results have been achieved by directly involving the volunteer in the development of support tasks, communication and information of young people, in addition to the preparation of EU projects to encourage participation in mobility and training of youth unemployed people. The volunteer has supported the association at the development of mobility and training projects, but also at the dissemination of job opportunities including job placements, trainings or volunteering abroad , with the ultimate aim of contributing to the professional development of young Spaniards, but also Greeks.

The type of experience and training has been based on the principles of non-formal education, which implies methodologies adequate to volunteer projects, learning from experience and learning by doing.



Thanks to the direct participation in the activities of GoEurope, the volunteer has learnt much about the action of the local government and associations at local, regional and national level, on the daily management of the economic crisis and its immediate consequences, being youth unemployment in Spain, one of its main direct effects. She was able to show personal ideas to address this situation at any time of its activities, in both her volunteering and her daily activities. This has generated an effect of mutual exchange between the volunteer and the local society, in which both sides have benefited, achieving a stronger European awareness; which has helped breaking any existing barrier. The ultimate goal was to support local unemployed find work not only in Spain but also, making them aware and offering them on the opportunity of participating in mobility, training, placements and volunteering abroad.

Since the ultimate objective of YOUth Have The Voice! was to increase employment opportunities and disseminate training opportunities as well as volunteering abroad, the volunteer may, once back to her Country of origin, put into practice and share the innovative tools and approaches acquired during her EVS with the youth audience of Greece and beyond, also by sharing the e-booklet she has developed in English with the aim of sharing awareness about the EVS programme and also finding new strategies to overcome unemployment mainly in Spain and Greece.

Finally the YOUth Have The Voice! has significantly supported the promoted the EVS and Erasmus+ Programs both locally, nationally and at European level, thanks to various outreach activities planned and the effort of the partner organizations.



## THE BLOG ON MY EVS

During my stay as an EVS volunteer in Valencia, I have developed a blog that keeps track of my memories, experiences and activities as a volunteer in Spain, which also serves as a platform for sharing personal thoughts about living abroad and what it feels like to be able to compare our own Greek culture to the Spanish one, also when it comes to creating awareness about the youth unemployment issues in these 2 Countries.

Moreover the blog serves as a tool to promote the Erasmus+ programme and help as many youth as possible to engage in the European Voluntary Service.



The blog can be found here <https://youthhavethevoice.wordpress.com>



## ON ARRIVAL TRAINING & MID-TERM EVALUATION

From 2nd of May 2017 (just few days after my EVS experience has started) and for 5 days duration, I have participated in the on-arrival training session organized for volunteers who have started at the same time as me their stay in different Spanish entities. It was very interesting to share experiences with other young Europeans and to receive advice from the trainers of the Spanish national agency in a meeting that took place in the beautiful city of Vic, in Catalonia. It was a pleasure to meet new friends and share workshops, laughs and visits to different places surrounding the city. A great experience that I will always bring with me!

Following the on arrival training and after having spent the first half of my EVS project in Valencia, from the 27th of November to the 1st of December 2017 I've participated in the intermediate evaluation training organized by the Spanish national Agency, where once again it was very interesting to share experiences with other young Europeans like me and, to receive advice and useful tips from the trainers in a meeting that took place in Molina, a small town in the province of Malaga, Andalucia. It was great to share with other volunteers activities and leisure times, this time in a great place like the CEULAJ-Euro Youth Center and, above all, visit for the first time the beautiful Granada and enjoy the sunset near the Alhambra.



## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DOING A “EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE” (EVS)? THEN, REGISTER AS A VOLUNTEER IN THE NEW “EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS” (ESC)

From 2018 the EVS programme will still be available, but it has been integrated in a brand new initiative offered by the European Commission, which offers an advanced online matching tool for both volunteers and organizations working within the programme (Coordinators, Hosting and Sending Organizations).

The **European Solidarity Corps** is the new European Union initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe.

The young people who participate in the European Solidarity Corps will all agree with and uphold its Mission and Principles.

You can register for the European Solidarity Corps when you are 17 years old, but you cannot start a project until you are over 18. European Solidarity Corps projects will be available to people up to the age of 30 years old.

After completing a simple registration process, European Solidarity Corps participants could be selected and invited to join a wide range of projects, such as helping to prevent natural disasters or rebuild afterwards, assisting in centres for asylum seekers, or addressing different social issues in communities.

Projects supported by the European Solidarity Corps can last from two to twelve months. They will usually be located within the European Union Member States.

**For more information about the ESC, you can follow the official EC's website, at this link** [https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en)  
**ESC facebook group** <https://www.facebook.com/EUSolidarityCorps>





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