

JANUARY 2021 - DECEMBER 2022

# VOSOTROS PROJECT

VOLUNTEERING CREATES SOCIAL CHANGES



Erasmus+



volunteering creates  
social transformations

## WHAT IS VOSOTROS PROJECT?

The VoSoTros project is funded by the Erasmus+ program (KA2 Adult Education). It aims to **identify the effects of volunteering for people in situation of vulnerability at the level of individuals, organizations and territories** and to promote **social value** of volunteering. This project is the continuation of Voyce Project, that developed tools to evaluate young volunteers competencies. Vosotros's project **is the exploratory phase of a future project of exchange of practice on the evaluation of social projects.**

### 8 Partners | 8 Countries

Cemea | France - Coordinator  
STOP | Poland  
EIVA | Romania  
CSV LAZIO | Italy  
VOLONTEUROPE | Belgium  
COORDINADORA | Spain  
CVC | Slovakia  
CLUBE INTERCULTURAL EUROPEU | Portugal

The project started in January 2021 and will end in December 2022 with a final forum in Brussels. The project includes various activities:

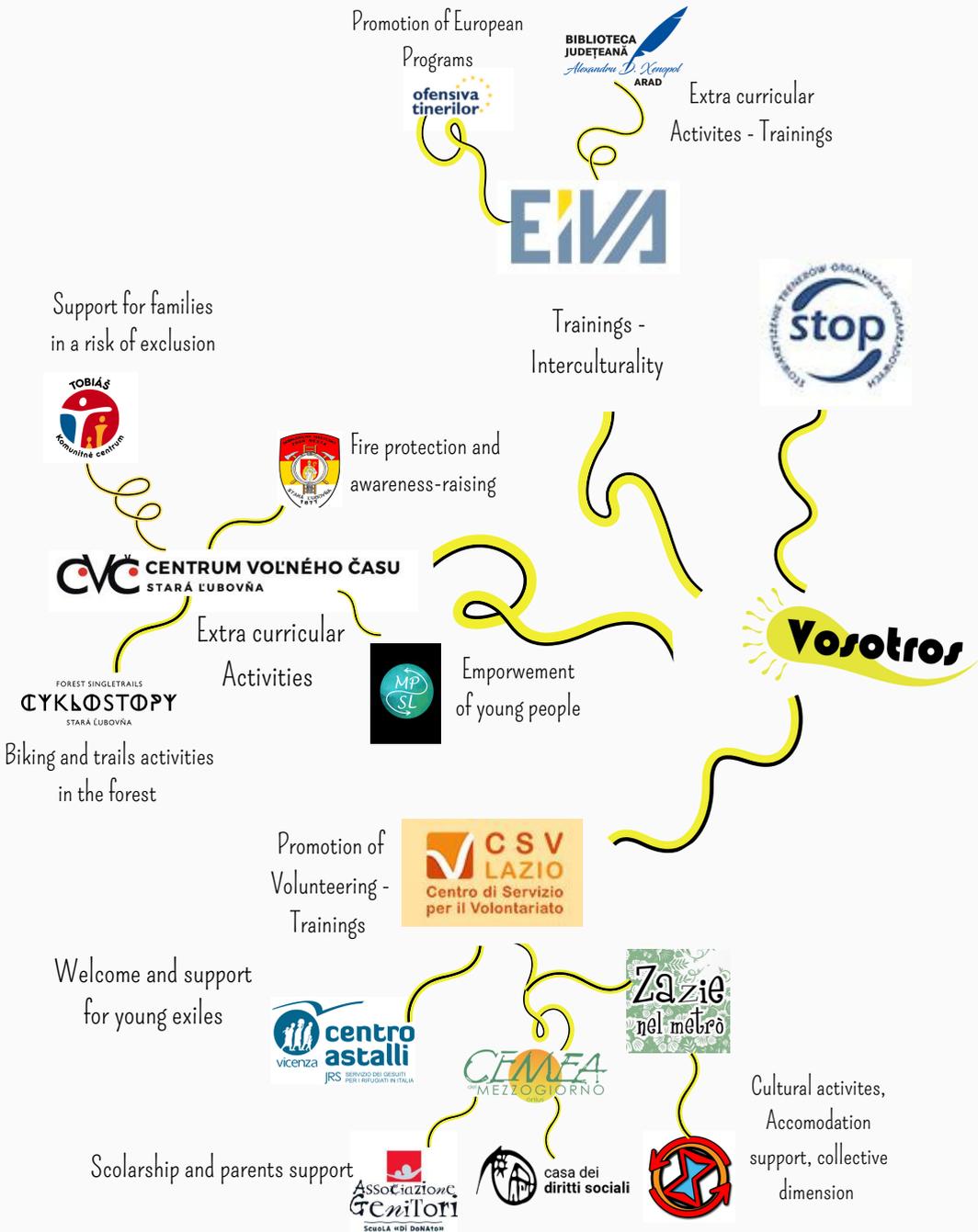
- **Forum on the evaluation approach** in Poland in June 2021
- **Study visits** in different countries: an exploratory approach, which enables the effects of volunteering to be identified.  
Arad, Romania | EIVA - September 2021  
Lisbon, Portugal | Clube Intercultural - November 2021  
Nantes, France | CEMEA Pays de la Loire - January 2022  
Madrid, Spain | Coordinadora - April 2022  
Roma, Italy | CSV Lazio - June 2022  
Stara Lubovna, Slovakia | CVC - September 2022



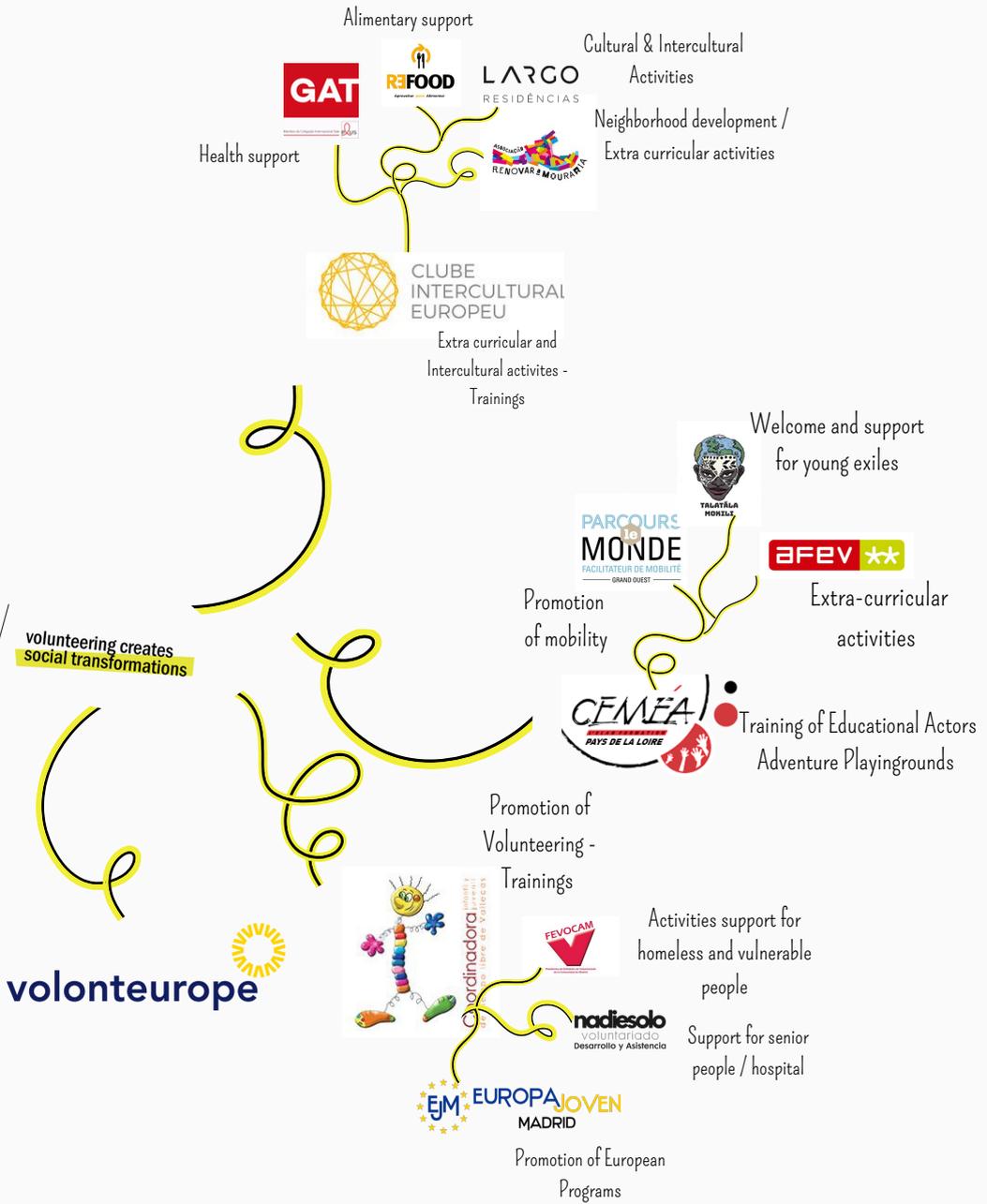
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# MAP OF VOSOTROS NETWORK



# Diversity of Volunteering Organisations



**volonteur**  
europe



## EFFECTS OF VOLUNTEERING ON

# VOLUNTEERS AND MENTORS OF VOLUNTEERS

### DEVELOPMENT ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND INITIATIVES

- Opportunity to **take responsibility and impulse autonomy.**
- **Discovery of different social realities** and purpose of associations
- Illustration of **skills and beliefs into concrete actions.**
- **Critical thinking** on new subjects brought by the associations (Environment, Gender, Social Justice...)
- **These experiences create:**
  - Improvement of **self-esteem** and **self-confidence**
  - **Open-mindedness** and **an awareness of societal issues** that develop a **network for active citizenship**
  - A **new dynamic** in personal life
  - **Implication on a local/regional** level which leads to self-fulfillment and develop a sense of initiative.

"By meeting and discovering people I broke my preconceptions about others' cultures".  
Young volunteer at EIVA Organisation

### ACCESS TO TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- **Training on new topics supported by the host organizations** (Gender equality, intercultural education, fight against discrimination...) **and development of technical skills**
- **Knowledge development** (in relation to welcomed public, public policies of the country)
- Opening up to **new professional paths**
- Learning **foreign languages**
- **Certifications** (eg : Youth Pass) that can lead to better **employability**

### SPECIFICITY OF NON FORMAL EDUCATION

- **Access to training**
- Possibility to be **both volunteer and beneficiary**
- **Commitment in the action that aims at transforming social reality** (political dimension)

### VALUES

- Solidarity
- Living together
- Trust
- Responsibility

### WARNING :

- On **instrumentalisation** of the volunteer as a salary worker
- Risk of **emotional overload** due to absence of volunteer's training and surcharge of responsibilities

### DEVELOPEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND RESSOURCES

- **New activities carried out by volunteers**
- **new or strengthened partnerships** linked to the activities
- **new resources:**
  - **volunteers' skills and actions**
  - **support materials** (monitoring tools, meetings and communication)
  - **pedagogical support:** materials produced by volunteers

### DISSEMINATION

- Development of activities **that reflect the organisation's values**
- Development of the association's **presence in new territories** (e.g. in different regions)
- **Readability of the association:**
  - Through **volunteers' testimonies** on their experience (especially international experience)
  - Through **volunteers' interaction with the local population and beneficiaries**

"Volunteers can have different profiles, they bring other dynamic and vision, by involving themselves for the same activist cause"

Coordinator of Volunteers at GAT

### NEW THEMATICS & WAYS OF WORKING

- **New very specific themes** (e.g. Inclusiveness/Inclusive and non-violent communication, collective management...)
- **New working methods:**
  - **Development of a hosting project** (e.g. volunteer house) **leads to institutional changes:**
  - **More horizontal decision-making processes** in small organisations
  - **Better understanding and transparency** that leads to **more democratic** management and organisation

"It changed the way we facilitate our meeting, and communicate between us, by the development of new tools"

Coordinator at Cemea Pays de la Loire

## NETWORK

- **Development of existing partnerships**
- **New synergies around hosting projects or volunteer activities** (focused on specific audiences) in relation **to different sectors** such as trade unions, municipalities, public institutions, decision-makers and religious institutions.

## GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE

- **New activities and animation of new spaces taken over by volunteers:**

E.g.: playgrounds or adventure playgrounds, sport games, solidarity shop, bike trails in the forest...

- **Attractivity**

**Change of the perception** of an area (safer, cleaner, accessible or change of population)

## COMMUNITIES

- **Social diversity of public spaces** through activities carried out by volunteers based on **meeting new people, and lead to intercultural dimension and mutual learning** (open-mindedness, elimination of stereotypes)
- **Conviviality:** New relationships through interaction between volunteers and people at risk of marginalisation
- **Inclusion:** Communities who live in the area, take part in the development of the territory

"Voluntary activities allow the development of activities within the neighborhood, mutual aid and trust"

Volunteer at Renovar a Mouraria

## DIVERSIFICATION OF AREAS

- Streets
- Libraries
- Universities
- Occupied buildings -SQUATS
- Prisons
- Parks
- Public gardens
- ...



EFFECTS OF  
VOLUNTEERING ON

# WELCOMED PUBLICS

## SPECIFICITY OF NON FORMAL EDUCATION

- Suggestions of **extra activities**, focused on not only basic needs.
- Opportunity to take **responsibilities** (as a mediator, project coordinator...)
- **Social and cooperative approach**
- Active participation in the structure that promotes **active citizenship**



## PARTICIPATION IN A GREATER DIVERSITY OF ACTIVITIES

### A wide range of activities supported by volunteers:

- Language classes
- Mediation
- Sports activities
- Cultural activities (theater, drawing and painting, music)
- Cooking
- Group games
- Gardening
- Computers science
- Teacher support in educational activities
- Ecological & environmental awareness
- ...

"I became volunteer in the same organization where I grew up, because I wanted to give back, and support child, as I had been supported"

Volunteer at Barro Association

## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Awareness
- Confidence and patience
- Empowerment (self promotion, self esteem)
- Collective dimension
- Reciprocity
- Community building



# STUDY VISITS | FORUMS

## ARAD, ROMANIA

Organised by



Organisations visited



## LISBOA, PORTUGAL

Organised by



Organisations visited



## NANTES, FRANCE

Organised by



Organisations visited



## MADRID, SPAIN

Organised by



Organisations visited



## ROMA, ITALY

Organised by



Organisations visited



## STARA LUBOVNA, SLOVAKIA

Organised by



Organisations visited



FORUMS ORGANISED BY:

