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EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

CULTURE UNITES

INFOPACK

START DATE: 01.04.2019

END DATE: 30.06.2019

FOUNDATION SEED, SAMOKOV, BULGARIA





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DEAR VOLUNTEER,

Foundation SEED is devoted to changing and contributing to the environment for the youths in our community. Throughout the years we have been doing activities that aimed at giving them more opportunities to develop their personal and professional skills and outlook on life. We are looking forward to welcoming you in our organization and our community where you will have the chance to experience the life in Samokov, to learn and practice Bulgarian and to gain insight into the work that we do.

We hope that this info pack will contribute to your understanding of our European Solidarity Corps project and that you will find the needed information about our Foundation and the environment and life in our town and country.

Should you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

The Foundation SEED team.



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European Solidarity Corps

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.





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ABOUT US

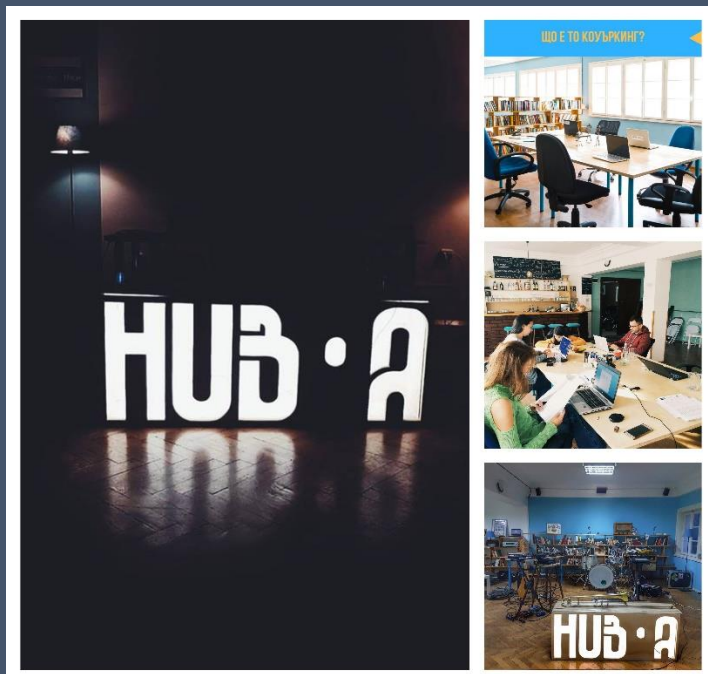
Foundation SEED was created in 2015. It is devoted to implementing and realizing activities for the youths. Ever since its existence the organization was involved in activities which aimed to include participants with fewer opportunities, in particular youths from Roma background. For the last two years the Foundation has been organizing Samokov Street Art Fest, which afterwards spread to another Bulgarian city - Troyan. Another project was the reconstruction of several spots which were abandoned. The project was named "The Spot" and was implemented through cooperation between Samokov Municipality, Foundation SEED and Association "BG Badi Aktiven".

The idea was to transform 10 places in different Bulgarian cities to make them a place where the youths would like to do activities outdoors. The idea was inspired by the Placemaking movement and which aims to challenges civil society to actively participate in the process of re-construction of public spaces. The project successfully attracted many young people who were engaged in the process since the beginning. The third project was the creation of the only one co-working space in Samokov - Hub-a. There were a few different teams of volunteers each of them engaged in particular activity. One team was responsible for the preparation of the interior and the exterior. Another team was responsible for sorting and shelving the books at the library. Third team was responsible for the promotion of the place to wide public. The youths proved to be very interested and manage to team up successfully.

More information could be found on the following links:

FOUNDATION SEED - <https://www.facebook.com/seedfoundationbg/>

HUB-A - <https://www.facebook.com/hub.a.samokov/>





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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Culture and art have proved to be of a great importance in the development and enrichment of communities and individuals. They are those subjects that bring people together even when they have different opinions. It is a way of sharing various ideas that inspire, motivate and create. The small communities struggle to have access to activities of this kind. We would like to raise the cultural awareness, to use festival as an international proof that there are no limits in art, that it is culture and art that could unite people; that through art people can shape their reality, they can learn to be understanding, caring and concerned. The project aims to:

1. To create a community based on team work and the creation of favourable environment.
2. To contribute to the European look of the town where the project is implemented.
3. To increase professional and personal skills and knowledge of the youths included in the project.
4. To promote voluntary activities.
5. To raise cultural awareness.
6. To give the volunteers an opportunity to learn how to organize and plan festivals and cultural events.
7. Experience exchange between partnering organizations in the field of culture.
8. To enhance professional and personal skills of volunteers. The participation in the project will give the volunteers an opportunity to take part in an activity which has proven to have a positive but limited in scope impact on the local community.

Project activities start on 1st of April and finish on the 30th of June, i.e. volunteers need to arrive before 1st of April and to leave after 30th of June.



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VOLUNTEER PROFILE

We are looking for motivated volunteers with the following qualities:

- aged between 18-30 from all walks of life
- open-minded young people who are interested in our areas of activities, in particular the culture aspect
- with a basic knowledge of English and motivation to improve it
- willingness to actively participate in our activities- no previous experience or particular degree required
- with positive attitude and desire to learn
- flexible, tolerant, adaptable and willing to share cultural experience
- the ability to work in team and independently

SELECTION PROCESS

Please note that if you are interested in taking part in this project you should be registered on the European Solidarity Corps portal. Enter this webpage and then press JOIN THE CORPS https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

Contact the relevant organizations from Poland and Italy (contacts are on the last page) who will redirect you towards us.

The selection will consist of:

1. Stage I - CV, covering letter and short questionnaire review.
2. Stage II – Interview over Skype.



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TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION, POCKET AND FOOD MONEY

ALL AFOREMENTIONED COSTS ARE COVERED BY THE PROGRAMME. TRAVEL COSTS WILL BE REIMBURSED UP TO 275 EUROS PER PARTICIPANT. IN CASE THE TICKET IS MORE EXPENSIVE THE VOLUNTEERS MAY NEED TO CONTRIBUTE THE DIFFERENCE.

Travel: The amount will be reimbursed when the travelling documents are presented to the Foundation. Up to 275 euros per person. Volunteers are free to choose how to arrive to Samokov. There is an airport in Sofia and regular buses are running from Italy and Poland to Sofia. Once the volunteers arrive in Sofia, there will be a car waiting for them to drive them to Samokov. Please contact us on foundationseed.samokov@gmail.com or d.saymenova@outlook.com for travel arrangements.

Accommodation: The volunteers will share a flat, they will be hosted in a shared room, i.e. 2 volunteers in a room. The flat will be equipped with all the necessary utilities - for cooking, washing, entertaining.



Pocket money: Each volunteer will receive 4 euros per day. This amount will be paid in full in the beginning of each month.

Food money: Each volunteer will receive 170 euros per month for food.



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THE TOWN - SAMOKOV

Samokov (Bulgarian: Самоков) is a town in Sofia Province in the southwest of Bulgaria. It is situated in a basin between the mountains Rila and Vitoshka, 55 kilometers from the capital Sofia. Due to the suitable winter sports conditions, Samokov, together with the nearby resort Borovets, is a major tourist centre. It is populated by roughly 30,000 inhabitants.





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CLIMATE

Samokov has a humid continental climate (Köppen climate classification Dfb) with an average annual temperature of approximately 9 °C (48 °F). The altitude of 950 meters, in the skirts of Rila mountain, and the mitigating proximity to the continental Mediterranean climate zone, are both strong factors in forming the climate.

Summers vary from very warm, sunny and dry to warm and humid, while winters can be relatively mild and wet with lots of snowfall, but also colder and drier. Springs can be cool and wet, while in autumns there can be numerous sunny and warm days.

SAMOKOV WEATHER BY MONTH // WEATHER AVERAGES

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Avg. Temperature (°C)	0.1	2.3	6.3	10.4	15	18.5	20.8	20.6	17.3	12.2	6.1	1.7
Min. Temperature (°C)	-3.5	-1.8	1.4	5	9.1	12.1	13.8	13.5	10.5	6.7	2.3	-1.6
Max. Temperature (°C)	3.7	6.5	11.3	15.9	20.9	25	27.8	27.8	24.2	17.7	9.9	5.1

Due to the mountain location of the town and the period of the volunteering, we encourage the participants to take some various clothes with them.

USEFUL LINKS

1. Tourist Information Center - <http://samokov-info.com/?lang=en>
2. Things to do in Samokov and surrounding area as in TripAdvisor - https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g969290-Activities-Samokov_Sofia_Region.html
3. The Official Website of Borovets - <https://www.borovets-bg.com/en/page/info/borovets/1804156485>
4. Samokov Info - <https://samokov.info/en/zabelezhitelnosti-en>



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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

FOOD - Most shops are open throughout the whole week. The working hours vary from shop to shop. Their schedule is written on their entrance. Main shops are BILLA, LIDL, T-Market. There are also small local shops easily found and visible throughout the town.

There are also local restaurants which offer different kind of cuisine, the most popular are the traditional dishes.

HEALTH - There is one hospital in the town.

There is one pharmacy that works on Sundays, it is located near the Police Station.

DO NOT FORGET TO TAKE YOUR EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT - Different concerts, performances and sport events are organized throughout the year, the schedule is spread in the town and the volunteers will be notified for the events in which they could take part in. There are a few gym centers, parks, street fitness, swimming pool, tennis court and running paths in the town. The highest peak on the Balkan Peninsula is located nearby the town, hiking is widely spread.

CONNECTIONS TO OTHER PLACES - There is a bus running every 30 minutes to Sofia. The duration of the journey is 1 hour. Ticket varies from BGN 5-6. The last bus from Sofia departs at 20:00 o'clock from the Bus Station Sofia South. Other cities which could be reached by bus are Plovdiv, Blagoevgrad, Dupnitsa. These busses run less often. Be careful and plan well with us if you decide to visit on your own. There are other busses to nearby villages.



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ABOUT BULGARIA

Bulgaria (/bʌlˈɡɛəriə); Bulgarian: България), officially the Republic of Bulgaria (Bulgarian: Република България) is a country in Southeast Europe. It is bordered by Romania to the North, Serbia and Macedonia to the west, Greece and Turkey to the south, and the Black Sea to the east. The capital and largest city is Sofia; other major cities are Plovdiv, Varna and Burgas. With a territory of 110,994 square kilometers (42,855 sq mi), Bulgaria is Europe's 16th-largest country.

The country occupies an area of 110,879 km², compared it is somewhat larger than Iceland (103,000 km²).

Bulgaria has a population of 7.15 million people (2015), the largest city is Sofia with 1.3 million inhabitants. Official language is Bulgarian, which is written in Cyrillic.



Bulgarian currency is called LEV.

1 BGN = 0.511292EUR

1 EUR = 1.95583 BGN

1 BGN = 0.511292 EUR

National Emergency Numbers

Ambulance	Tel: 150
Fire/Rescue	Tel: 160
Police	Tel: 166
BULSAR (Bulgarian Black Sea Search & Rescue)	Tel: 088 161
Car Breakdown Service - Sofia	Tel: 1286
Car Breakdown Service - outside Sofia	Tel: 146
Pharmacy On-Duty	Tel: 178

European SOS 112

The number 112 can be dialed to reach emergency services - medical, fire and police - from anywhere in Europe. This Pan-European emergency number 112 can be called from any telephone (landline, pay phone or mobile cellular phone). Calls are free. It can be used for any life-threatening situation, including:

- Serious medical problems (accident, unconscious person, severe injuries, chest pain, seizure)
- Any type of fire (house, car)
- Life-threatening situations (crimes)



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CONTACT US



foundationseed.samokov@gmail.com

d.saymenova@outlook.com



Founation SEED

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Applicants willing to apply for this ESC project, should send their CV and motivation letter (English) to the e-mail of the relevant organizations - from Italy (<https://www.fondazioneflaminia.it/>) and Poland (<https://pocztowka.eu/>); or to foundationseed.samokov@gmail.com. Please write "ESC CULTURE UNITES applicant" in the subject field. In case of further questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us.

Italy: Fondatzione Flamina - Elisa Bonaccorso, ebonaccorso@fondazioneflaminia.it

Poland: Stowarzysze nie Kulturalne "Pocztówka", agata.wertep@gmail.com



Best of luck!