

„PEOPLE TO PEOPLE“ č. 2016-1-CZ01-KA204-024083

INTRODUCING THE THEME 1

First Project Meeting
9-13 December 2016, Kadaň, Czech

COUNCIL OF VOLUNTEER CENTERS OF NORTHWEST REGION

= Informal net of volunteer centers and organisations in the region of Karlovy Vary and Ústí nad Labem.

Our mission:

- Develop volunteering in region,
- manage the net of associated volunteer centers and organizations, that work with volunteers,
- inform and motivate public to volunteering,
- systematically build up the reputation of volunteering and volunteers in region.

How did it begin:

- In 2008 there was the meeting of eight founding organizations with the DC Ústí nad Labem as a leading organization.
- In 2009 three new partner organizations.
- 2011 = European Year of Volunteering and three new organizations.
- 2012 = European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations.
- 2013 and 2014 = Volunteering across borders (Germany) - sending and receiving volunteers.
- 2015 = Analysis of volunteering in the region of Ústí nad Labem.
- 2016 = Radka Kadaň is the presidency organization; creation of the logo and information materials; FCB Volunteering for all.
- 2017 = Radka Kadaň continues to be presidency organization; participation in the project People to people (an informal association of volunteer organizations).

Our aim:

To create mutually beneficial information and educational environment for the development of methods of work in the volunteer programs and projects.

Our activities:

- The presiding organization holds a meeting of Council about 4 times a year. Participation of members at meetings is voluntary, as well as their participation in the Council.
- Meetings are held in cooperating organizations, on strategic places, headquarters of the public administration (municipal or regional authorities), etc.
- Costs related to the meetings are paid by presidency organization.
- Meetings are thematic (eg. a presentation of projects or activities of some members), or for sharing information and experiences from the regions.
- Next scheduled meeting is in March 2017 in Litoměřice.

EVALUATION OF THE 1st PROJECT MEETING

9th - 13th December 2016, Kadan, Czech republic
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association (BBBS BG)



Topic: Networking

Theme of inspiration :

RADKA works with the Council of volunteer centers in the Northwest region in the Czech republic. All the organizations meet several times a year as their mission is to motivate the public to volunteer and to create environment for developing and sharing methods of work in the volunteer sector. All of them work with senior volunteers.

Our solution - implementation for 3 month trial operation:

In Bulgaria there are several volunteering organizations in the city of Plovdiv and many around the Plovdiv region and Southern Bulgaria. What would be more challenging but also more applicable is the creation of a Regional (Balkan, Eastern European, etc.) network of BBBS affiliate members which can follow the structure, subordination and approaches of the Council of volunteer centers in the Northwest region. Also BBBS BG met with some senior volunteers during the visit in Kadan and now knowing more about how to approach them and how to motivate them, it can implement the methods it learnt in order to attract seniors and expand the scope of its volunteer team.

Consultation with partners: verification of the financial breakdown of the grant between the partners to the organization

Recommendation: 1.Senior volunteers are more likely to stick around for longer periods. 2.Working in a network with other volunteer centers increases the popularity of the volunteerism and it makes it more attractive and visible in the society.

For Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association

In Plovdiv on April 19, 2017

Lena Karnalova, Executive director

EVALUATION OF THE 1st PROJECT MEETING

6-12 December, 2016 Kadan, Czech Republic

Association TRATWA, Poland

The topic: Creating network of volunteering centers

Theme of inspiration: Radka Association participates in an informal net of volunteer centers and organisations in the region of Karlovy Vary and Ústí nad Labem.

Our solution - implementation for 3 months of trial operation: Seeing how Radka Association organize their work with partner organizations we decided to look for an opportunities of such mutual support in Wroclaw and/or region of Lower Silesia.

Consultation with partners: We were mostly interested how Radka manages promotion of volunteering idea and how they motivate on everyday basis the volunteers who are already cooperate with them.

Recommendation: There are chances of joining already existing networks of volunteer centers in the closes area or creating an informal new network within the closest local partners. We find both options possible and will be verifying those opportunities.

For TRATWA
In Wroclaw on 3 February 2017
Marta Kucner



„PEOPLE TO PEOPLE“ no. 2016-1-CZ01-KA204-024083

INTRODUCING THE THEME

Second Project Meeting

18-23 April 2017, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

The topic: **Mentoring volunteer programs and mentoring methods in volunteering**

During the project's second meeting which was hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association several visits and discussion took place in different institutions in and near the city of Plovdiv.

1. The representatives of the partners had the chance to get an insight into the Complex for Social Services "Olga Skobeleva", Plovdiv, where the Big Brothers Big Sisters Programme has been active for many years. The management of the Complex shared their volunteer experience because many international organizations and local citizens have been volunteering there over the years. Besides visiting the main building of the Complex, the participants also checked one of the safe houses under its umbrella – the Family type center for children with no disabilities. They got an idea of the volunteering situation and practices in the Center as well.



2. The partners of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association visited a kindergarten and a community center in the village Krislovo, Maritsa Municipality. The Municipality and the Association have been partners for years in a plenty of projects. Thus, the participants were introduced to the field of social services outside the city of Plovdiv. The children at the kindergarten had prepared an Easter program for their guests.

The meeting in Plovdiv went on as planned and the partners visited the Complex for social services for children and families. The management of the Complex shared their work and exchanged information about the current situation in Poland and the Czech Republic.



3. Next our partners had a chance to meet the staff at the Municipal Foundation “Plovdiv 2019”, which is in charge of the preparation and implementation of Plovdiv – European Capital of Culture 2019. The city of Wrocław, Poland hosted the European Capital of Culture in 2016 and “Tratwa”, being responsible for coordinating EVS volunteers, shared their experience in recruiting, coordinating and assessing EVS volunteers not only during Capitals of Culture but also in general. The staff at the Foundation expressed their willingness to continue to share experience with the project’s partners in the field of volunteering.



4. On the last working day we visited another social complex – the Complex for social service for kids and families in Plovdiv. Our partners got an insight into how it works thanks to the meeting with the director and staff from the institution. They discussed the challenges in front of the sector and how they can be fought.



The partners restated their cooperation and set the dates for the third network meeting which will be held in June in 2017 in the city of Wrocław, Poland.

THE EVALUATION OF THE 2.PROJECT MEETING

April 18-23rd, 2017, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

RADKA z. s., the Czech Republic

Topic: Mentoring volunteer programs and mentoring methods in volunteering

Examples of good practice:

BB-BS introduced us to organizations where their volunteers are working in the framework of the BB-BS program - Olga Skobeleva - Social Services Complex; Kindergarten and Community Center in the village of Krislovo, Maritsa Municipality.

In Bulgaria, the program is realized as regular (about 1 hour once a week) long-term (minimum half of a year) meetings of 1 or more volunteers with a group of children (2-20).

Our solution - implementation of good practice in the Czech Republic:

In the Czech Republic, BB-BS is similar to the 5P program, where according to the methodology one volunteer with one child work for a minimum 1 year period.

In our neighborhood there are several children's facilities (a children's home, a home for people with disabilities), where we can introduce new cooperation on the basis of the Bulgarian model.

In the autumn of 2017 there were recruits of the new volunteers and we contacted the local children's home and home for people with disabilities (the "Institute") where are children from 3 years of age. Children's home was not interested about mentoring programs, because children attended local schools and did not have a problem with their inclusion in the collective.

The Institute was interested in 1 volunteer for 1 boy (6 years) with autism. The volunteer (18 years old) was attended only 1 month, because the environment was there psychologically demanding and the organization's approach was not friendly enough. There is no other collective facility in our region. The BB-BS model we can imagine, but it is not yet feasible in our environment.

Consultation with partners: not yet needed

Recommendation: We can find new partners in father surroundings or we can try to start working together with classes of ADHD children in school facilities.

In Kadan on 16 May 2017

Stanislava Hamáková, DiS. ,
Coordinator of the project
"People to People"





RADKA
RODIČE A DĚTI
KADANĚ

„PEOPLE TO PEOPLE“ č. 2016-1-CZ01-KA204-024083

REPORT

**Second Project Meeting
18-23 April 2017**

Association Center for Catastrophes and Natural Disasters TRATWA in April 2016 have participated on the second meeting of the project „People to people” financed by KA2 of Erasmus+Program.

The Lider of the meeting was Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association. The second meeting of the project “People to people” was held in the city Plovdiv, Bulgaria within the date 18.04.2017 till 23.04.2017.

Association Tratwa send one full time worker for the meeting - Jakub Kurakiewicz and three mentors working in projects – Renata Chmielowska, Witold Zarówny, Ignacho Solandre.

During the time we spent in Plovdiv we have learn about social help in Bulgaria by visiting places :

- Complex for Social Services „Olga Skobeleva“ ,
- Municipal Foundation „Plovdiv Together“,
- Community Center and Kindergarten in Krislovo ,
- Community Services in Plovdiv ,

Moreover, will met future administrators of the Capital of Culture 2019 in Plovdiv, with whom we exchanged experiences. During the meeting we also discussed EVS projects and future meetings in Poland.

„PEOPLE TO PEOPLE“ no. 2016-1-CZ01-KA204-024083

INTRODUCING THE THEME 3

Third Project Meeting

19-22 June 2017, Wrocław, Poland

PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EVS VOLUNTEERING PROJECT

Our mission:

- promotion of youth mobility and Erasmus + program;
- training youth workers and mentors in the field of Erasmus + and non-formal education;
- preparation and implementation of good value EVS projects;
- promotion of tolerance and respect of other cultures via intercultural exchanges and intercultural education.

How did it begin:

- 1997 Center for Catastrophes and Natural Disasters Tratwa was established
- 2008 Jakub Kurakiewicz and Marta Kucner participate in training Cyber-reka Lidera. Support for Leaders of Social Changes in Poland which was speaking about volunteering
- 2009 Marta Kucner, one of the employee participates in Training for new hosting organizations and mentors working with European Voluntary Service
- 2010 “Partner Tandem” project; polish-german volunteer exchanges regulated according to German „Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr” (FSJ)
- 2014 Tratwa Association hosts first 4 EVS volunteers during “My place ngo – Youth work and non-formal education”
- 2015 Tratwa Association hosts 4 EVS volunteers during “Together with the community”
- 2016 Tratwa Association hosts 12 EVS volunteers during “EVS volunteers in European Capital of Culture 2016 Wrocław”
- 2017 Tratwa Association sends 1 Polish volunteer to Spain
- 2017 Tratwa Association hosts 12 EVS volunteers during “Volunteering matters”

Our aim:

Training the youth workers and mentors so they provide valuable support for EVS volunteers. Creating a platform of intercultural exchange with the use of non-formal education.



**RADKA
RODIČE A DĚTI
KADANĚ**

Our activities:

- everyday coordination of ongoing EVS projects: planing and implementing activities for volunteers, providing trainings in various fields for volunteers, regular evaluation of our activities
- participation in international meetings, seminars and others in order to create new partnerships and improve working methods in Erasmus + field
- preparation and implementation of Youth Exchanges (both hosting and sending)
- participation of our employees, volunteers or mentors in (international) trainings, workshops, seminars, etc. related to the field in order to improve/gain new skills in youth work
- keeping regular contact with previous EVS volunteers so they can continue the learning process and the cooperation between foreign ngos is stronger
- providing opportunity for both, Polish citizens and foreigners (often ex-EVS volunteers) to volunteer in a non-formal way with our ngo

EVALUATION OF THE 3rd PROJECT MEETING

19 - 23 June 2017, Wroclaw, Poland

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association



Topic: EVS - long-term volunteering

Theme of inspiration:

Tratwa is mainly active in the work with EVS volunteers. They were also engaged in the process of implementation of the initiative Wroclaw 2016 – European Capital of Culture during the whole year.

Our solution - implementation for 3 month trial operation: As BBBS BG is implementing projects funded by Plovdiv 2019 –European Capital of Culture, due to the experience Tratwa shared, we are now more prepared on how to react and work in an environment like this. Also, BBBS is getting ready to host its first ever EVS volunteers so we are more aware of processes such as orientation, management and assessment of the volunteers and will put in practice Tratwa's recommendations.

Consultation with partners: verification of the financial breakdown of the grant between the partners to the organization

Recommendation: When working with EVS volunteers, it is extremely important to choose for them mentors who will take their task seriously and will be ready to help them anytime. Every EVS volunteer goes through several different mental stages such as feeling excitement, nostalgia or not being ready to actually leave when the project is over. That's why it is advisable to provide them with friendly help so they don't feel left out.

For Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association

In Plovdiv on October 16, 2017

Lena Karnalova, Executive director

EVALUATION OF THE 3rd PROJECT MEETING

19 - 23 June 2017, Wroclaw, Poland

RADKA z.s., Czech Republic

Topic: EVS - long-term volunteering

Theme of inspiration :

In TRATWA, EVS has a long-standing experience.
They have a sophisticated documentation system.

Our solution - implementation for 3 month trial operation: On the spot, we learned about our launch of EVS implementation - regarding volunteer accommodation, the content of their work, co-operation with mentors, project management. Based on our partner documentation, we have customized our own forms.

Consultation with partners: verification of the financial breakdown of the grant between the partners to the organization

Recommendation: Especially at the beginning of the EVS implementation, it is ideal to find a close partner country, or to find a partner, for example, within another project, to see and consult his experience with EVS and its implementation, at least brochure, video report ...

For RADKA z.s.
In Kadan on May 16, 2017
Stanislava Hamáková, DiS. ,
Coordinator of the "People to
People"



„PEOPLE TO PEOPLE“ No. 2016-1-CZ01-KA204-024083

INTRODUCING THE THEME 4

The 4th Project Meeting

16 - 21 January 2018, Prague, Czech Republic

FUNDING OF VOLUNTEERING and THE LAW ON VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The meeting took place under the leadership of RADKA z.s. in Prague. The change of venue was suitable for planned visits of partner organizations based in Prague.

1.) Funding of volunteering and the law on voluntary service

We visited the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, in connection with different legislation on volunteering. The performance of voluntary service in the Czech Republic is regulated by a separate law. It specifies the types of volunteer service, the person of the volunteer and sets the conditions for the organization of volunteering. Sending organization provides care for volunteers - compulsory insurance, contractual documentation, supervision. Such an organization will obtain accreditation for its activities from the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. In connection with the law, the accredited organizations may apply for a subsidy from the state budget once a year. Eligible costs are legal obligations (insurance) and personnel costs for the volunteer coordinator.

The law further regulates - in the Czech Republic, a volunteer can be from the age of 15; the foreign volunteer service is from the age of 18; the receiving organization is an individual or an beneficial organization where the volunteers operate.

2.) Meeting with partner organizations

- a) HESTIA - Center for volunteering - mediator of statutory insurance of volunteers, mentoring volunteer programs, training and educational activities in the field of volunteering and coordination of volunteers.
- b) Toulcův dvůr - ecological voluntary activities.
- c) INEX SDA - international volunteer service provider, organization of national and international volunteer work camps.
- d) Permaculture CS - environmental and community volunteer activities, volunteer-based organizations (without permanent staff).

Bc. Stanislava Hamáková, DiS.

EVALUATION OF THE 4th PROJECT MEETING

16-20 January 2018, Prague, Czech Republic
Association TRATWA, Poland

The topic: Volunteering financing and networking

Theme of inspiration: Introduction of different sources of financing volunteering programs. Networking and cooperating among various Czech organizations.

Our solution - implementation for 3 months of trial operation: Radka introduced various forms of financing volunteering programs: national found of Ministry of Interior, Erasmus + funds for European Voluntary Service, work camps implemented by Association INEX. Thanks to the meeting at the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, TRATWA Association has seen how the state is funding these volunteering programs whereas in Poland there is not such opportunity. We depend more on various regional and/or city financing. Inspired by RADKA's networking methodology within the Czech Republic, TRATWA Association would like to implement their chances of cooperation with NGOs and INGOs either with a national or international action plan

Consultation with partners: As we already knew RADKA Association from the previous meetings, the idea on this meeting was rather to learn and understand better how founding voluntary programmes look like in the Czech Republic. Thanks to having met various Czech associations and the Ministry of Interior, both we and BBBS Bulgaria have expanded our knowledge in this field.

Recommendation: During the project we obtained several ideas inspired by other associations which cooperate with RADKA Association from whom we obtained positive references. We consider a great idea what INEX Association does with bringing foreign volunteers to work camps everywhere in the Czech Republic and we hope to put that into practice as well. Also, thanks to having been introduced to some associations involved into farming and permaculture we have got inspired to create our own garden using a ground of one of our installations where future EVS volunteers could be involved in its development and maintenance.

For RADKA z.s.

In Wroclaw on 08 March 2018

Stanislava Hamáková, DiS., Project Coordinator "People to People"

EVALUATION OF PROJECT MEETING

16th – 20 st January 2018, Prague, Czech republic
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association (BBBS BG)



Topic: Volunteering financing and networking

Theme of inspiration:

Within the frames of the visit, we met with the organization Hestia who implements the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program under the name of Pet P. They provide mentoring services to kids and youngsters also with the help of elderly volunteers – as individuals or in pairs – especially for kids who don't have grandparents. They also work with group mentoring.

We were introduced to the Czech legislation on volunteering and funding opportunities thanks to our meeting with an official from the Ministry of Interior, who supervises the law. Czech volunteer organizations can apply for a 4-year accreditation and once they get it, every single year they can ask for a grant depending on the number of volunteers they have.

Our solution - implementation for 3 month trial operation:

1. As we focus more on individual mentoring and we have not so much experience in group mentoring, we are trying to form groups of volunteers to help kids and youngsters at the complex for social services where we implement the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. In the early spring of 2018 we applied to the European Youth Foundation with a project focused on human rights, violence prevention, no hate speech, etc. and its main idea is to get together groups of 3-4 volunteers who will be trained on these topics and will be working non-formally with the kids/youngsters and provide them with peer-to-peer education. The project got approved and will start in September 2018.

2. The law on volunteering in Bulgaria is still not adopted but it has been in the public eye for a long time. The discussion around it is periodically raised before put down again. Representatives of the Association used to participate in the public discussions on the draft legislation on volunteering. Now we reapplied to be back in the discussion groups and we already attended a meeting on the topic under the patronage of the Bulgarian MEP Momchil Nekov.

Consultation with partners: verification of the financial breakdown of the grant between the partners to the organization

Recommendation:

1. It is easier to find and keep volunteers for group mentoring because individual mentoring could be seen as a more responsible task and not everyone feels ready to commit.
2. Nationally regulated volunteerism helps the work of the organizations as it provides rules and funding for them and it is also used to keep an official track of the number of volunteers.

For Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association
In Plovdiv on May 14, 2018
Lena Karnalova, Executive director

„PEOPLE TO PEOPLE“ no. 2016-1-CZ01-KA204-024083

INTRODUCING THE THEME 5

Fifth Project Meeting

14-18 May 2018, Wrocław, Poland

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND PROJECT PROMOTION

During this meeting in Poland hosted by Tratwa Association we focused on development strategy and promotion of projects.

This meeting was dedicated to two main topics – designing the strategy for organisation which would include volunteers and promotion of the implemented projects.

1. Development strategy.

Participants of the meeting had a meeting with Robert Drogoś, the president of Tratwa Association, who shared with them history and strategic plans for the future of the ngo. Robert Drogoś has a long experience in implementing projects financed by various funds and on multiple occasions were cooperating with municipality on developing strategy for a city – local organisations' cooperation. Drogoś presented cultural venue “Czasoprzestrzeń” which is one of the results of the newest cooperation. Tratwa Association is in charge of old tram depot where cultural centre is created for all the age categories. The venue couldn't have been created without great



engagement from EVS and local volunteers involvement. Participants of the meeting have been explained how volunteers work is organised and what are they involved in. One of the great examples of this engagement is a social garden which is being created at the back of “Czasoprzestrzeń” as a common work of local volunteers, EVS volunteers, local students and neighbours. This case study aimed in showing that creating open social space for and by local community is possible and beneficiary.



Another case study prepared for participants of the meeting was visit in ENTE kindergarten where representatives of Radka Association especially had an opportunity to find out how the institution is run and what could be implemented in their own work.

Participants of the meeting were invited to conference “Equal chances” (“Równać szanse”) which was a great opportunity to learn about other projects implemented in the region and get to know people standing behind them. In informal part of the meeting there was a chance to ask questions and exchange opinions.

2. Promotion of the implemented projects.

On this meeting we decide to focus as well on promoting projects, both before the implementation to attract possible volunteers to participate in them and to promote the results of already implemented projects. Participation in Conference “Equal chances” was a chance to see how several projects are promoted and shared in the region via such meeting. It was just one example of project’s results dissemination.

For all project process media skills are essential whether it comes to recruitment of participants and/or volunteers, promoting project itself or disseminating the results. Therefore, we prepared media workshops with Tratwa Association graphic designer and photographer, Sabina Costinel. Participants of the workshops could learn more about photo editing, online and offline means of promotion and dissemination, some easy tips which can be used in this field on everyday basis. Those short introductory workshops can be beneficial for the future work of organisations.

Even though the representatives of Big Brothers Big Sisters Bulgaria weren’t present on the meeting involved organisations could plan future meetings and project’s next topics under “People to People” project.



Jakub Kurakiewicz

EALUATION OF 5. PROJECT MEETING

14. – 18. May 2018, Wroclaw, Poland

RADKA z. s., Czech republic

Topic of 5. Project meeting was medialization and spreading volunteering.

Examples in practice:

TRATWA uses variety of videos, targeted strategy of photo documentation and high effectivity in range of the PR materials to illustrate their work or to call the youngsters for a couple of years.

While visiting we gained practical and theoretical tenets of making photos and videos in high quality and also we had the opportunity to try to go through the whole process of making a short video made of material from our partner meeting.

Our solution – implementing in 3 months trial operation:

After coming back to Czech republic we started to work intensively on new way of sharing and propagation of our activities. We made variety of video which we posted on our web page and social sites. According to statistics these videos have more views.

Consultation with partners: making up new dates for another meeting in Bulgaria and Poland, possible staff changes in TRATWA

Recommendations: continuous procure of photos and videos for the possibility of processing (for example workcamp wrap-up, illustration of our activities in a year, the process of reconstruction of the building and so on

Za RADKA z.s.

In Kadaň on 8th of August 2018

Bc. Stanislava Hamáková, DiS., coordinator of project “People to people”

„PEOPLE TO PEOPLE“ no. 2016-1-CZ01-KA204-024083

INTRODUCING THE THEME

Sixth Project Meeting

11-15 September 2018, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Volunteer care, volunteer management, supervision

The sixth meeting from the People to People project was hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association and was focused on mentoring.

1. Introduction of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association latest volunteer projects

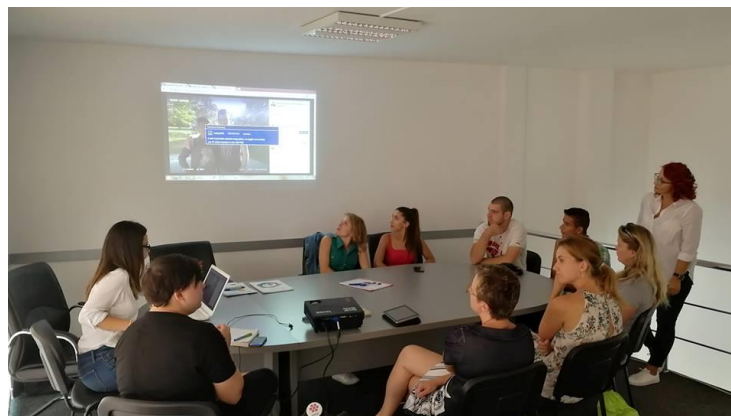
As a beginning of the visit we shared our volunteer projects which are about to start. The Association got 2 big projects approved and both demand a lot of volunteer power to be implemented. The first one called “Growing up together” includes several activities and the most important one in this case is the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program. 29 kids and youngsters (aged 5-18) from the Complex for Social Services will be matched with volunteers (aged above 17). After the processes of selection, orientation, training and matching are over, they will meet for at least one year every week. Another activity, part of the project, for which we need volunteers is the so called drawing with fingers. The kids and the youngsters from the same social institution will be taking part in art workshops with the help of volunteers. In this case our target group is young people between 14 and 18.

The other project is called “First dates” and focuses on human rights, violence prevention, no hate speech through the methods of group mentoring. Groups of 3-4 volunteers will be organizing workshops on the topics covered by the project with the youngsters from the abovementioned institution and they will try to help them speak more freely about their first romantic or intimate contacts as well as violence in the relationships and so on.



2. Meeting with the matches from the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program

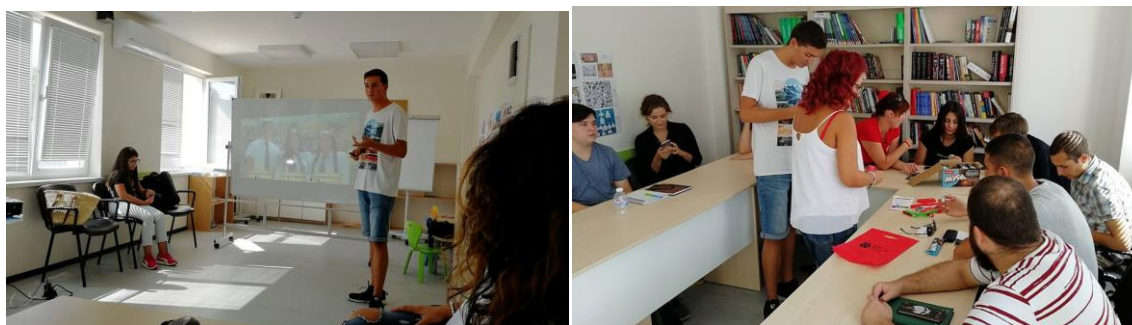
In order to see how the program is working, our partners met with two matches from the mentoring program. One of them – Ivana and Ina were part of the school-based model. Although their match was closed more than 9 years ago after meeting for more than a year, they stayed true friends. Ivan and Isus are a currently functioning match, part of the side-



based program. The “bigs” shared what motivated them to become mentors and what difficulties they had. The “littles” were very eager to point out how their big “brothers” and “sisters” helped them be more open, confident, self-aware and even better students at class. Their stories were made even more alive with pictures and videos from their meetings, summer camps and other activities through the years.

3. Introducing the Association’s volunteers for different projects and causes

Apart from the mentoring program, we work on various projects with young volunteers aged mostly between 15 and 25. Six of them presented their volunteer experience. They expressed in detail what brought them to us, how they decided to become volunteers, what activities they have taken part in or initiated and what motivates them to stay. They have prepared a lot of pictures and motivational speeches about the volunteering in general.



4. Visiting the Youth Center in Plovdiv

The center was built with the financial support of the Norwegian fund and is hosting a lot of activities – clubs for kids, sports activities, as well as youth exchanges and other types of international meetings. Our partners explored the infrastructure which consists of one building with plenty of halls and accommodation together with a numerous sports facilities and a bio garden.



5. Meet EVS volunteers in Plovdiv

Thanks to our partners the NGO BG Be Active we managed to introduce their long-term EVS volunteers from Spain and Russia to the participants in the project meeting. They exchanged experience since RADKA is currently working with EVS volunteers and were curious to get an idea how it is in other countries.



Although our partners from Tratwa, Poland were not able to attend the meeting due to emergency situation, we discussed the following steps, set the dates for the next meeting in Wroclaw at the end of November and contacted them for confirmation.

EVALUATION OF THE 6th PROJECT MEETING

11-15 September 2018, PLOVDIV, BULGARIA

RADKA z.s., Czech Republic

Topic of the 6th Project meeting – Volunteer care, Volunteer management, Supervision

This partnership meeting was not attended by representatives of the Polish organization TRATWA. Jakub Kurakiewicz excused his absence by telephone. There were operational issues within the organization that required urgent solutions to avoid potential personnel and financial losses.

Examples of good practice:

Representatives of BB-BS introduced two new volunteer projects that they are implementing. This involves the preparation and implementation of group activities carried out by groups of young volunteers. In both projects, the organization tried the difference in care for individual volunteers and for a group of cooperating volunteers. It is necessary to take into account the different characteristics, abilities and knowledge of individual team members. Each way of volunteering requires different management, care for volunteers – education in time-management, team roles, group or individual supervision and conflict resolution methods, etc.

Implementation in RADKA z.s.:

We do not currently have experience in leading larger volunteer teams, but we see this collaboration as beneficial in solving more complex tasks that require creativity and different perspectives. In this respect, we would like to find a group of active people in the future who would jointly try to implement their own volunteer project or activity. We see a possible opportunity in the project calls of the European Solidarity Corps. In support of this project, one of the implemented activities will be training modules for the volunteers themselves (role in the team, personality knowledge and development, etc.). In the group of volunteers, it will also be appropriate to select a “leader” to coordinate all activities, ideally in cooperation with a mentor in the case of an inexperienced leader.

Consultation with partners / Recommendations:

No consultation required.

For RADKA z.s.

Done at Kadan, on 15 November 2018

Bc. Stanislava Hamakova, DiS.

„PEOPLE TO PEOPLE“ no. 2016-1-CZ01-KA204-024083

INTRODUCING THE THEME 7

Sevent Project Meeting

26-30 November 2018, Wrocław, Poland

Youth Work and possibilities of empowering volunteering in community work.

During this meeting in Poland hosted by Tratwa Association we focused on Youth Work and possibilities of empowering volunteering in community work.

This meeting had three most important points.

1. Presentation of Tratwa projects : Legnicka 65 and Cultural Center “Time’n’Space”.

Participants of the meeting visit two the most important buildings of Tratwa Association, the Center Legnicka 65 which is a place where we have Youth Center and Senior Center. The second place was the “Time’n’Space” Center of Academic Culture and Local Initiatives.

Legnicka 65 is a cultural centre and meeting place for the young people - Youth Initiatives Centre “My Place” and the local community in Wrocław. It has a potential to organise youth exchanges, social events, concerts, theatre performances, exhibitions, film screenings, workshops and other various activities. “My Place” is targeted at the teenagers and young people, who are in a risk of social exclusion and is based on a non-formal education approach. This place works also as an informal community centre and it aims to boost the social and cultural life of the neighbourhood where Depot Cultural Centre is located.

2. Possibilities of empowering volunteering in community work.

On this meeting we decide to focus on discussion how to empower volunteering in community work and also by participating in work with volunteers in work they were doing in “Time’n’Space” Center of Academic Culture and Local Initiatives. “Time’n’Space” supports all volunteering initiatives and engages to social activism. The venue couldn’t have been created without great engagement from EVS and local volunteers involvement. Participants of the meeting have been explained how volunteers work is organised and what are they involved. One of the great examples of this engagement is a social garden which is being created at the back of “Time’n’Space” as a common work of local volunteers, EVS volunteers, local students and neighbours. This case study aimed in showing that creating open social space for and by local community is possible and beneficiary.

3. Meeting with Foundation Prom.

Another case study prepared for participants of the meeting was visit of Foundation PROM which is working with volunteers in kindergarten. Representatives of Radka Association had an opportunity to find out how the institution is run and what could be implemented in their own work.

EVALUATION OF THE 7th PROJECT MEETING 26-30 November 2018, Wroclaw, Poland RADKA z.s., Czech Republic

The theme of the 7th project sessions was youth work and the possibilities of spread of volunteering through community work.

Examples of good practice: TRATWA manages several areas within the city that were used as a technical depot, transportation facilities, etc. in the past. These premises are newly used for community work with youth. One of the places is a skatepark, which serves as a space for active leisure and for meeting of young people from the surrounding area. Individual activities are managed by TRATWA workers or volunteers, who can further work with visitors, young people. Other areas include the community garden (being built), or a multifunctional space designed for concerts of emerging bands, exhibitions of young artists, etc.

Our solution - implementation in 3 months trial: RADKA z.s. has been interested in youth work for a long time. We want to offer young people activities and space for their own implementation through the emerging Youth Center. The bearer of the idea should be a young person with a vision and a desire to build something new. At the same time, it is essential to provide suitable premises that will not "bind" young people but, on the contrary, offer them a great deal of incentive for further development. For this reason, we would like to provide suitable premises, but we are still limited by financial resources of our organization.

Consultation with partners: setting dates for further meetings in the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, setting up the agenda for the next meeting.

Recommendation: Rooms for young people and children with parents should be separated. Young people should have the opportunity to customize the premises that should be informal. These spaces may not be given to young people unless they are attractive to them.

For RADKA z.s.

Done at Kadaň, 5 December 2018

Bc. Stanislava Hamáková, DiS., Coordinator of the project "People to people"

„PEOPLE TO PEOPLE“ no. 2016-1-CZ01-KA204-024083

INTRODUCING THE THEME 8 – DOBROVOLNICTVÍ 50+

8 Project Meeting

4 - 8 March 2019, Kadaň, Czech Republic

The meeting took place under the leadership of RADKA z.s. in Kadaň. During the meeting we visited the cooperating organization Intergenerational and Volunteer Center TOTEM in Pilsen.

1.) 50 + Volunteering

The RADKA organization has a significantly higher proportion of volunteers who are in the so-called productive age (workers, mothers on parental leave, long-term unemployed, disabled pensioners). Another group is volunteers in senior age (in the Czech Republic about 62 years and more). Working with this target group is specific. 50+ volunteers have different motives for volunteering than young people (students). They usually have an exact idea about volunteering and their benefits. Caring for these volunteers is also specific -



they prefer personal contact (they are not connected via email and social networks), they appreciate the expression of interest from the coordinator (birthday wishes), the possibility for participating meetings (coffee, common activities, etc.) is positively perceived. Older volunteers, on the other hand, bring life experience, reliability, professionalism and loyalty to a cooperating organization (a deliberate choice of organization to work with).

2.) Intergenerational and community cooperation

We perceive positively the experience of interconnecting generations - children as volunteers visit retirement homes and after-care hospitals, seniors devote themselves as volunteers to endangered children (3G mentoring program - three generations), creating space for community meetings (senior management activities at TOTEM Pilsen, for example dance festival; presentation of the concept of community space in Karlovy Vary).

Bc. Stanislava Hamáková, DiS.

EVALUATION OF PROJECT MEETING
4th – 8th March, Kadan, Czech republic
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association (BBBS BG)



Topic: 50 +Volunteering

Theme of inspiration:

During the visit in Kadan, Czech republic, we were introduced in details with the specifics of working with elderly volunteers. Since the hosting organization, RADKA, is experienced in the field, they shared practically and theoretically how they involve volunteers aged 50 +. They went through the processes of recruitment, orientation, finding suitable activities and keeping their interest. The practical part of working with elderly volunteers was demonstrated through the “Dragon dreaming” method.

We visited also a volunteering center in Pilzen, which works with the intergenerational approach and combines activities for kids and elderly people so they can be of mutual advantage. The center involves elderly people from the city in different initiatives together with younger people and children.

Our solution - implementation for 3 month trial operation:

Volunteering is still not a value on the Balkans as well as in Bulgaria. Although there has been a significant change in the field since the beginning of the democracy, volunteering is still attractive mainly to young people aged mostly 15 – 25. It applies for the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association – the majority of our volunteers are high school and university students. As we work with the BBBS mentoring program, it has been extremely important for us to attract people above this age, as well as elderly who can share their experience as mentors.

As a result of our effort to attract elderly volunteers and people in working age,:

1. We have contacted an international betting company that works in the city of Plovdiv which has previously expressed their interest in involving their staff in volunteering activities. We have conducted one meeting with the human resource staff who are in charge of developing the corporate social responsibility policies of the company and we are in the process of arranging an info day with their employees.

2. We have visited one pensioners’ club and had a talk about the positives from the BBBS mentoring program, especially for those whose families are far away. We are in contact with the management of the pensioners’ club for clarifying further engagement.

Consultation with partners: verification of the financial breakdown of the grant between the partners to the organization, arranging the upcoming visit in Bulgaria

Recommendation:

1. When working with elderly volunteers, one should be aware of the fact that they prefer personal contact, they can not be recruited through social media and Internet unlike the young people.
2. They have different motives for volunteering but still there are some prejudices about volunteering activities amongst them because of the “bad” image of volunteering during the socialist times.

For Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association
In Plovdiv on June 11, 2019
Lena Karnalova, Executive director

THE EVALUATION OF THE 8 .PROJECT MEETING 4-8 march, 2019 Kadan, Czech Republic Association TRATWA, Poland

Topic: Volunteering 50+

Examples of a good practice:

Tratwa association has the meeting place for seniors. They participate in many workshops: language classes, cooking workshops, dancing classes. That's why the topic of this meeting was very interesting for our participants. Radka association is running volunteering 50+

During our inspiring meeting we have exchanged our good practices and observed new type of workshops. For example Radka does the computer technology lessons for seniors and also is giving to their volunteers 50+ possibility to actively participate in an events and other actions directed to local community.

In the Czech Republic we've visited many places, most important and related to the topic was Volunteering center TOTEM in Pilsen where young people and seniors create the space. Volunteers 50+ thanks to this can exchange their experience with youngsters. Creation of such place gives the possibility of cooperation between generations and motivates both.

Our solution - implementation of good practice in the Poland:

As we mentioned before we see this meeting as very inspiring. After coming back to Poland we have proposed to our Youth Center and Senior Center to do together more activities which we were already doing ex. cooking workshops. It was a success so now our social work has increased with collaboration between generations exchange.

Consultation with partners: not needed

Recommendation:

For RADKA z.s. Jakub Kurakiewicz

„PEOPLE TO PEOPLE“ no. 2016-1-CZ01-KA204-024083

INTRODUCING THE THEME

Ninth Project Meeting

20-24 May 2019, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Volunteer funding opportunities in the EU and community volunteering

The ninth project meeting was hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria and was focused on exploring the latest opportunities for funding volunteer activities in the EU and also volunteering in small villages.

1. Latest opportunities for funding volunteer activities in the EU

At the end of 2017 the European commission has officially announced the launching of its new program – the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) which builds on the EVS program as it adds the possibility for young people to attend professional traineeship, to find job and at the same time it keeps its international volunteering profile but also provides the opportunity for local volunteering activities to be funded. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association was one of the first organizations to get funding in Bulgaria for local volunteer activities under the ESC by a three-year partnership agreement. The ESC was introduced to our partners. We also shared our experience with coordinating youth exchanges, trainings and seminars under Key Action 1 of the Erasmus + Program which were focused on the promotion of volunteering. The sessions under these topics were held again in the Municipal Youth Center in Plovdiv and our partners had the chance also to meet some of the volunteers at the organization. The Youth Center and its activities were introduced to the participants in the meetings since they were quite different from their colleagues who visited during the previous meeting in September 2018.



2. “She in” volunteer initiative

The partners met with a representative of the “Academy Ekaterina Karavelova” organization which started its initiative “She in Plovdiv” on a completely voluntary basis. The initiative is aimed at popularizing the good example and interesting and successful personal and professional stories of local women which have contributed for the community. The initiative is expanding to other cities such as Varna, Gabrovo, Veliko Tarnovo and Sofia.



3. Volunteering in small villages



We have visited the community center in the village of Trud which is situated in the Region of Plovdiv and attended an initiative organized by the Association of the Foreign Students at the Medical University in Plovdiv. The held a presentation on high blood pressure and measured the blood pressure of everyone who wanted. Afterwards, the partners were introduced to the volunteering activities in the community center. For its scale (the villages has a population of about 4 000 people), the center is very popular of its engagement f the children and young people especially in the summer.

THE EVALUATION OF THE 9.PROJECT MEETING

May 20-24.05 2019, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Association TRATWA, Poland

Topic: Youth exchange – echange of expiriences

Examples of good practice:

In Bulgaria we've visited a Youth Center of Plovdive. We've participated in the meeting with the members of the exchange who visited various countries all over the Europa. They shared their expariences and observations. We appreciated it very much because they were a real example of knowlage transfer. Also we see a possible partner in the Youth Center in Plovdiv for some future collaborations.

Our solution - implementation of good practice in the Poland:

In Poland we organize our own youth exchanges so thanks to visit in Bulgaria we decided to send our own groups to other youth exchanges. We also put more work in preparation process of the groups, for now we didn't manage to send no one but in future we hope to manage.

Consultation with partners: not yet needed

Recommendation:

For RADKA z.s.

In Wrocław on 29 MAY 2019

Jakub Kurakiewicz, Coordinator of International Projects Association TRATWA

EVALUATION OF THE 9th PROJECT MEETING

19th – 24th Mai 2019, PLOVDIV, BULGARIA

RADKA z. s., Czech Republic

Topic of 9th Project meeting – Youth exchange.

Examples of good practice:

The Youth Center has presented us with several projects and their experience of Youth exchanges from several countries (Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Turkey, Norway, Portugal). Very interesting was that the exchanges are written from 20-36 participants aged 16 above. Topics related to business, story sharing, etc.

They also talked about a 3-year project in which 90 volunteers are to be involved.

Implementation in RADKA z.s.:

After announcing the call from NA, we will try to write a project for Youth exchange for more participants than before. Focusing on trying on volunteering.

SHE IN PLOVDIV project. A women's organization was introduced to us. Who holds regular meetings, where speakers speak and share their life stories. The aim is to increase women's self-esteem for their better position in society. They also help to realize these meetings in smaller towns (find spaces, help with organization, presentations in media, etc.).

Implementace v RADKA z.s.:

It inspired us to create similar meetings like Café Lingua. Significant women of the region would be invited to the meetings. Speakers can also be nominated by listeners.

Consultation with partners/Recommendation:

Due to the short time interval between meetings (May and June), it was not necessary to consult.

For RADKA z.s.

In Plovdiv, 23th Mai 2019

Bc. Lucie Dvořáková, DiS., Renáta Stašková, participants of the meeting "People to People"

