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POZITIVASAMOBOR
Udruga za održivi razvoj



Project Booklet

CRAFTING GENERATIONS

An individual volunteering activity implemented within the project funded by European solidarity corps program, hosted by Association for sustainable development Pozitiva Samobor. In Croatia, 2022/2023.



Introduction to Crafting Generations

"Welcome to 'Crafting Generations' - a unique journey where solidarity, volunteering, arts and crafts as well as sustainable development met to improve the community.

Funded by the European Solidarity Corps, this project has been a vibrant platform for young volunteers to explore the topics of sustainable development, craftsmanship and entrepreneurship. Our mission: to foster cultural awareness, stimulate creativity, and empower the local community through solidarity activities.

The project involved 2 individual volunteers: Andrei-Cristian Dunaev from Romania and Aleksandra Szpakowska from Poland.





Objectives

Overarching aim of the project was to implement solidarity activities through which volunteers will create an inclusive environment (facilities and programs) for children and elderly people in the local (rural) community of the city of Samobor.

The context of the project was set into the framework of educational projects for vulnerable groups that the hosting organization implements within Eco educational farm Greenville, where the solidarity efforts of the volunteers were directed into development of educational content as well as promoting intercultural diversity, sustainable development and craftsmanship among children, youth and elderly people.

A significant objective was also to develop personal and professional competencies necessary for the (self-)employment of young people. This included fostering skills like initiative, independence, self-confidence, and employability.





Activities

Workshops

The activity was focused on involving volunteers to create and implement educational content for children, young people with fewer opportunities as well as elderly people that strived to increase their environmental awareness, appreciation for traditions as well as to broaden their horizons in the aspect of European identity. Within a framework of this activity as well as with the support of the project team, the volunteers organized workshops for children in the Youth Center and at the Eco Farm Greenville.

Personal projects

The individual projects undertaken by the volunteers – "Green Defenders" and "Place fur Friends" – were aimed at enriching knowledge about the environment, promoting sustainable practices, and animal welfare. These projects not only contributed to the personal development of the volunteers but also to the broader community by raising awareness on important social and environmental issues.





Impact

The project significantly enhanced the skills and employability of the target groups, particularly young people and volunteers. Skills in crafts, environmental care, and social entrepreneurship were developed, directly contributing to better employment prospects and entrepreneurial capabilities. Participants gained improved awareness of cultural diversity and environmental issues. "Crafting Generations" fostered an appreciation for cultural heritage and crafts, while "Green Getters" emphasized the importance of ecological sustainability and conservation. By engaging young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, the project promoted social inclusion and active participation in societal development, addressing the challenge of social exclusion.

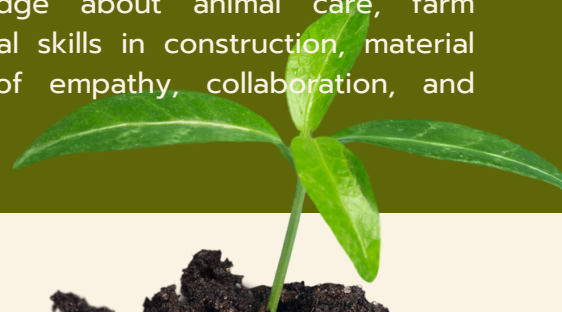
The project facilitated community engagement, creating a sense of cohesion and collective responsibility, particularly evident in activities like arts and crafts workshops, ecological programs for children and elderly people as well as in active citizenship workshops for highschool students. Local awareness and practices regarding environmental conservation and sustainable living were significantly enhanced, addressing local environmental challenges. The most important local impact is the ground for implementation of local projects for children, young people and elderly people at Greenville Eco Farm, which would be impossible without the efforts of the volunteers in creating the polygon for such education.



Learning outcomes

Competences

Participants gained in-depth knowledge about crafts, cultural diversity, and environmental sustainability. Skills developed included craft techniques (like sewing, woodworking, painting), project management, and social entrepreneurship. Participants cultivated a sense of initiative, creativity, and cultural sensitivity. These competences aligned well with the planned objectives, particularly in fostering creative expression and developing specific craft skills. In the projects developed and implemented by the volunteers in this activity (Green defenders and Place fur friends), participants increased understanding of environmental issues, waste management, and the importance of the 5 R's (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot). They developed project planning and implementation skills, along with public awareness campaign skills. They also enhanced their environmental awareness, responsibility, and proactive engagement in sustainability. Furthermore, participants developed knowledge about animal care, farm maintenance, and rural lifestyle. They increased their practical skills in construction, material handling, and teamwork. It contributed to development of empathy, collaboration, and commitment to animal welfare and community development.



Volunteers



Andrei Dunaev

Professional actor and lover of art and creative activities such as making wood products, design, drawing and sewing.



Aleksandra Szpakowska

Tourist technician who wants to study archaeology. In her spare time, she is fond of traveling and creative activities.



Review From Volunteers



Andrei

I am one of the volunteers who enjoyed their experience to the maximum. Going back in time and thinking about how I started and how I finished the project, I can say that I am a different person from many points of view and what is most important is that after all this I acquired a lot of things that I was just dreaming. More than that, I could say that the big prize I won is a place in the "Positiva Samobor" team, something that gave me wings and made me believe even more in my dreams and powers.

Aleksandra

From January till August I had the opportunity to live in rural area of Vrhovčak and in lovely town Samobor. I've got various tasks through the process - from gardening, to creating infopack of a whole new project, from preparing workshops for teenagers to removing glitter from my clothes. Half things that I did before, half tasks completely new - this way I both; reminded myself what I can do and learned through process.

Get In Touch

The Association for Sustainable Development Pozitiva Samobor was founded in October 2011 on volunteerism and idealism with the aim of promoting the principles of sustainable development by actively involving citizens in local projects.

The scope of the Association is topics in the field of work with children and youth, nature, culture, recreation, education and healthy living. Creating a positive environment is what the members of the Association strive to do through selfless work and investment of their knowledge and time. Cooperation with various associations and sectors on the creation and development of new ideas and projects is what makes Pozitiva Samobor stand out.

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