



Worlds of Experience

No. 40 (July 2016)

Index

◆ EDITORIAL

VOLUNTEERS VOICES on “Volunteering for Life Skills or Employability?”

- [Without Words](#)
- [Volunteering Abroad as the Beste Lesson Ever](#)
- [Volunteering as Life Coaching for Young People](#)
- [Volunteering and Work Abilities](#)
- [Looking for My Own Space after Volunteering](#)
- [How I was Colombianized!](#)
- [Sharing Time and Knowledge in Costa Rica](#)
- [Reflecting on Life](#)

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- [UNV Annual Report for 2015](#)
- [International Youth Day 2016](#)
- [European Volunteering Forum](#)
- [UN Launches World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement](#)

NEWS FROM NGO'S

- [CIVICUS - State of Civil Society Report](#)
- [How is Inequality Linked to Climate Change, and What to do About it?](#)
- [IFMSA: Training Manual on Climate and Health Launch](#)
- [UNITED - Are you a #LifeSeeker?](#)
- [The Role of the Youth Sector in Preventing Violent Extremism](#)
- [Nonprofit Tech for Good - A Social & Mobile Media Blog for Nonprofits](#)

ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS

- [Ser Voluntario Internacional - Workshop Organized by ICYE Mexico/SIJUVE A.C.](#)
- [ICYE Nepal's Earthquake Reconstruction Project at Light for Nepal's Children](#)
- [Global Volunteering Day 2016, Hanoi, Vietnam](#)
- [#FuerzaEcuador](#)
- [ICYE Berlin Reunion](#)
- [Gauging Impact Conference, Bogota Colombia, April 2016](#)
- [ICYE Impact Assessment - Human Rights in Diversity](#)
- [Promoting Volunteering- Calling Youth to Action in a Global Visibility Drive](#)

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein

“Volunteering for Life Skills or Employability?”

Dear friends,

Increasing the role of volunteering is seen as a bridge to employment - a result of increased global competitiveness in labour markets and economic instability. In the 40th issue of the ICYE newsletter on **Volunteering for Life Skills or Employability?**, we consider what skills and competences the multifaceted experiences of volunteering brings with it, and whether these skills serve employability.

In **Volunteers Voices**, eight former and current EVS and ICYE volunteers answer the question: Do life skills aid employability? In doing so, they describe the experiences, skills and competences that have impacted on their present life and future life choices, opportunities and ambitions. We begin with an inspiring article by a German volunteer in Colombia, which urges us listen to the voices that are not heard too often. Next up is a Colombian volunteer in Poland for whom volunteering abroad is the best lesson ever. A Spanish volunteer in Switzerland says it in business terms, for her volunteering was similar to doing a SWOT matrix of herself. We then have an Ecuadorian volunteer in Germany, who explains that volunteers are also the beneficiaries in host projects because learning for them is paramount. In Poland, a former volunteer in Argentina explains that employers are drawn to her experience abroad. Another German volunteer in Colombia describes how she was Colombianized and that her learning includes patience and solidarity. A Finnish volunteer in Costa Rica talks about the Banco de Tiempo project and the life-long lasting benefits of her volunteering experience. Lastly, for a former German volunteer in India, volunteering enables reflection on issues from their very many different perspectives. Perspective taking, solidarity and all the other skills and competences described in the articles illustrate that volunteering imparts skills for life and for employability.

News from International Organisations, amongst others, feature: the UNV Annual Report 2015; the UN International Youth Day 2016; the European Volunteering Day marking the the EVS 20th anniversary; and the World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement.

News from NGOs report on: the CIVICUS State of Civil Society Report 2016; Oxfam's study on how inequality is linked to climate change; the Training Manual on Climate and Health by IFMSA; UNITED's #LifeSeeker Campaign; the European Youth Forum publication on “The Role of the Youth Sector in Preventing Violent Extremism”; and a short guide of 36 useful Apps by Nonprofit Tech for Good.

ICYE Programme News include: the workshop “*Ser Voluntario Internacional*” by ICYE Mexico; ICYE Nepal's earthquake relief and reconstruction project; the Global Volunteering Day 2016 organised by ICYE Vietnam; ICYE Ecuador's volunteers building houses with TECHO for earthquake's victims; an informal reunion of former ICYE Board members and International Office staff in Berlin; the final conference held in Bogotá and research study of the Erasmus+ project “Communicating Human Rights in Diversity”; and the upcoming Erasmus+ Key Action 2 project “Calling Youth to Action in a Global Visibility Drive”.

Wishing you an interesting reading, we look forward to receiving articles and pictures for the next issue of “Worlds of Experience”, dedicated to “Volunteers at the interface between formal and non-formal education”. Please send your contributions to icye@icye.org, before 30 September 2016.

Warmest regards!
ICYE International Office

This and previous issues of “Worlds of Experience” can be viewed and downloaded from: www.icye.org.

Without Words

Marie-Helen Jakob (Germany)

Volunteer in Colombia (2015-2016)

„The problem is not that the deaf do not hear. The problem is that the hearing world does not listen.“

Working at a school for deaf children has taught me a lot of things along the way. First and foremost: the importance of investing time in understanding people.

It has been 10 months since I left Germany to work as a volunteer at the school „Colegio Campreste ICAL“ in Chía (north of Bogotá, Colombia). This institution is part of the ICAL Foundation (Instituto Colombiano de la Audición y el Lenguaje), which enables the advancement and rehabilitation of hearing-impaired and deaf children.

The school itself consists of a pre-, primary and secondary school. ICAL receives deaf children, hearing-impaired students who use hearing aids, as well as children with no auditory conditions. Some classes are taught in spoken, others in sign language. As a volunteer, I'm helping out anywhere I can – supporting teachers, giving substitute classes, helping in the office and even in the kitchen. After five months working at ICAL, I was assigned to give English lessons for all the hearing-impaired students. It was quite a challenge to design and implement my own concepts for the classes while figuring out how I wanted to convey content; what kind of role I wanted to represent as a teacher. Yet, until this day I am loving the daily challenge. I love to reflect on my work, always



looking for improvement.

In fact, there have been quite a few challenges during the last year: Learning both Spanish and sign language wasn't easy but therefore an absolutely unique experience. I am still more than fascinated by the beauty of sign language. The communication among deaf people is simply magnificent. Even though I used to think that the variety of words cannot be replaced by signs, I was proven wrong. The expressiveness of signs probably even allows conveying feelings and thoughts more accurate than words could ever do. While spoken language can be loud, high-pitched and pushy, sign language always seems to be harmonized and compatible. Now that I am able to communicate in

signs, I can share stories, listen to thoughts and worries, have laughs, make friends and, most importantly, understand all these worthy people. They all have their story to tell, just that there aren't a lot of people who would listen, or rather, who would understand. There haven't been many things in life which have fulfilled me the way communicating with these kids fulfills me. It feels great to be able to listen to the voices that are not heard too often.

Likewise, living in a country like Colombia has also made me realise how crucial it is to invest time in order to understand. Colombia's historical and political path is a complex matter and unfortunately the portrayals of the vast majority of international media do not do it justice. To me, it is a great opportunity, experiencing this country with its very different facets. Collecting all these stories means to question stigmatised connotations. And the fact that I can share my version when going back to Germany makes this even more appealing.

It might have been rather little things in the beginning: overcoming language barriers, confronting cultural and religious differences (but also similarities), adapting to the workplace and host family or taking over responsibilities. But seeing the bigger picture, I have learned to listen. I have learned to invest my time in things and people in order to understand what I might not have understood at first sight. I'm going back to Germany to study social and cultural anthropology – which also means to study the understanding of cultural differences and similarities. I guess this might be one of the most important abilities we will need these days, especially looking at the tendencies back home in Europe concerning the refugee situation. The lack of understanding sadly often leads to fear and hatred. I don't know where my studies and life in Germany will lead me to, but I know that volunteering here in Colombia has definitely inspired me to go this way.

Volunteering Abroad as the Best Lesson Ever

Angélica Camargo (Colombia)

Volunteer in Poland (2016)

Hello everyone! My name is Angélica Camargo. I am from Pamplona, a small and beautiful city in Colombia, also I am an art student in Medellín. I am living in Pułtusk, Poland for two months already where I am doing my EVS. My program is based on non-formal and informal education with kids aged 14-17 at some schools in Pułtusk and some promotion of volunteering work.

Since I arrived in Poland I have really fallen in love with all the differences between my home country and my new one. Just coming here for the first time was an amazing journey, it was the first time for me to read and learn some Polish words in the streets. After that, every day has become a new adventure.

I am taking some Polish lesson and I have to say I am very glad about that. It's incredible how everything

changes when you come to understand the culture and the language. It is a new place that appears when you recognize these small details in the way Polish people are, talk, celebrate, eat and live.



I have to talk about Putusk, place that reminds me of my own town. Time after time, I have started meeting people from the town and then more doors are opening to get more and more involved in the culture and traditions of the country. In my volunteering project, I have been so distracted with so many new things that time is really passing fast.

I already feel I have improved my Spanish, my mother tongue (you could learn more about anything when you have support teaching), English and of course I feel proud of my baby level Polish. This is an opportunity to show all the skills you have brought with you from your past and in addition develop new ones.



At this time, I can identify how many possibilities the EVS program has given me, because every day I have

new challenges, like daily issues and professional ones. I am learning how to share my life with different people from other countries, so living in a multicultural house is one of the most important facts about my EVS. In addition, I feel more prepared to organize, prepare material, activities and artistic resources for the different events we have in Putusk. I am happy that I will be able to apply all my new knowledges in my future job opportunities. I understand how much I enjoy preparing cultural events. In arts world, this absolutely means a lot. In the near future, I can't imagine all the new adventures that are coming my way but I am ready for them, and I can't wait.

Volunteering as Life Coaching for Young People?

Blanca Egido Barbero (Spain)

Volunteer in Switzerland (2014-2015)

We usually regard the right to choose as something positive. And I think it actually is. But making choices can also be very overwhelming, especially if we think that our decision will impact our future life personally and professionally. What happens when we combine a world full of choices with an education system designed in the past? Is there a need for extra-curricular activities to gain skills and competencies in order to improve employability? And how can volunteering help create new pathways to economic opportunity for young people?

For many it has been clear since they were kids what they wanted to do in their future. Doctor, architect, chef, musician... They are just drawn to it so strongly that they cannot imagine themselves doing something different. Even if they don't have a natural talent for their dream job, motivation guides them in their life. This guidance also keeps them on the safe track or at least on the happy track, where they feel good about themselves. There are also people who didn't have a dream job as kids but discover their passions later on. Some of them were even very bad at school. They didn't show any interest in general subjects such as languages or math. But as soon as they land in an applied field, they start shining and developing the right skills for a successful career. But what happens with all the young people who suddenly don't fit in? Some people just don't know what they are good at, what they like doing the most or how they can be helpful to the society. They either didn't feel any calling (even if they were very good at many things) or they didn't have an appropriate environment to explore their abilities. The number of young people in these situations keeps growing. But volunteering can play a key role for them and I would like to explain how.

I got a place for my voluntary service in Switzerland when I was 25. At that time I had already graduated in Business Management and Tourism and had some work experience in different companies. Although I really enjoyed my studies and past jobs, I had the

Volunteers Voices

feeling I was missing something to feel fulfilled in my professional life and that was definitely affecting my personal life. So I decided to volunteer in order to give myself the chance to reflect on my future while I did something for others. The advantage of volunteering abroad is that you put yourself in a totally new setting with a new culture and language. This is a place where you are no longer the beloved daughter of your mother, where you have no friends calling you to make plans for the weekend and where basically nobody is checking on you and sincerely asking how you are doing. Since you receive a very small grant, even your free time is a pain because of your tight budget. In a European country, this can put your integration at risk. You are, with all due respect, experiencing something a bit similar to what many people are actually forced to go through because of immigration. But I don't regard my voluntary service as something negative; rather the opposite. And so do most of the former volunteers I had the chance to talk to. My voluntary service in Switzerland was exactly what I needed in order to explore and test myself.



During my wonderful year in Switzerland I lived with a host family and worked at the ICYE office. I supported the incoming program by organizing and leading some of the cultural activities. One of the things I enjoyed the most was the co-ordination of the camps for the volunteers and to see how they evolved during their stay. I also realized that this field really fulfilled my desire to do something social and meaningful, so I currently work in a similar organization for study-abroad programs. As for the skills I gained, I definitely grew in social competences thanks to the contact with such different groups. I also see myself way more original, creative, innovative and proactive since then, maybe because of the many inputs you receive from other cultures. But what I really appreciate from that time was again the idea of being forced to make choices. It is true that for many people you don't know yourself well until you are faced with difficulties. You don't know what is really important for you, what is superficial, what you like above all and what you do because of social pressure. Volunteering is somehow that challenging situation that makes you think in a way you cannot when you are in your comfort zone. In business terms, I would say that volunteering was similar to doing a SWOT matrix of myself. For those not familiar with it, a SWOT matrix is a basic analysis where you look at the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of a given organization or product.

I also think that in order for this to happen, it is mandatory to have an on-site program that comes along with the voluntary service. I am very thankful to all people who were involved in that program for me:

workplace, host family, mentor and workshop leaders helped me all in different ways to reflect on myself. From that on you don't even need to set priorities because priorities are all set by themselves. And having clear motivations is almost half of what you need to succeed in your future. What does a successful life look like for you? Having the answer to that question is the first step to work on the future you want personally and professionally.

Volunteering and Work Abilities

Bernarda Cueva (Ecuador)

Volunteer in Germany (2015-2016)

My name is Bernarda Cueva, I am 24 years old and I'm participating as volunteer in the project "Wuppertaler Tafel" in Wuppertal, Germany. This project is a non-profit food bank that collects food that is thrown away by supermarkets, bakeries, etc. or food that is donated and makes it available to all those in need (repatriates, refugees, the disabled, unemployed, homeless people...).

The Wuppertaler Tafel is one of the biggest food banks in Nordrhein-Westfalen with a canteen, a kindertafel - free kindergarten, a store that sells furniture and household things, a second-handed clothes store, a book store, a mobile medical and social care team, and a store and cafeteria where food collected from supermarkets is sold for 50 cents.



My work as a long-term volunteer at the Wuppertaler Tafel is in the kindertafel, where I play and assist with the children. The other areas where I work are the second-handed clothes store and the store and cafeteria where I help to sell the vegetables and fruits. The experience and skills that I have gained will support my future employment possibilities – I have gained knowledge, confidence, motivation, team work skills, a sense of responsibility, ability to compromise, and respect for myself and others.

Of course, in life there are always difficulties but what is important is the way we resolve those conflicts. For

example, in my first two months in Germany, I wanted to work with the children in the kindertafel, but language was one of the barriers and also the director of the kindertafel, who was not open-minded and did not want me to work there. Certainly, this situation was frustrating for me because I did not have any tasks. I did not work much and most of those two months at home. But I did not want to give up and my way of dealing with it was through communication. I talked to the bosses and let them know that I did not feel comfortable with my tasks and that I was not allowed to work with the children. It was good to be able to talk about it, the bosses understood my situation, and we made a schedule together.



Now, it's already ten months since I came to Germany, which means that my volunteering experience is about to end and thoughts of what I will do afterwards are top-of-mind. When I think of my professional life, I immediately realize that my voluntary work has given me many opportunities to improve my employability and professional competences through the effective work habits, i.e. good team work, tasks planning, time management, respect for differences, work ethics and workers' responsibilities, rights and duties.

Volunteering is not a passive process - being in a workplace and helping people in need. The experience entails a huge engagement and helps us build and further develop skills. In this sense, we are at the same level as the beneficiaries: I feel that I've learnt as much as I've given to the people in the Tafel. This social interaction is about being constantly open to change. For example, with the kids, I've learnt different education processes such as mathematics, typical games in Germany.., but at the same time, the kids have learn other things from me when we worked together. Reflecting on my experiences has helped me recognise that I want to work and study in the social field, and I've decided that my way forward is in human rights.

Voluntary service can help us to become aware of our skills and personal attributes and this is essential when we apply for placements, internships, jobs or

further studies. Building on these competencies helps young people to be motivated, reliable, and confident decision-makers, who are able to overcome adversity and raise their personal potential.

Looking for My Own Space after Volunteering

Edyta Jankowska (Poland)

Volunteer in Argentina (2014-2015)

My name is Edyta. I am from Warsaw in Poland. In 2014 I went to Buenos Aires to work with children in poorer areas. The time I spent in Argentina is very important to me. Firstly I fulfilled my dream and ambition. I went to a non-European country and I learnt Spanish in eight months from scratch. Those two factors (the place and the opportunity to learn a new language) were for me the most important when I was looking for the project. It confirms the rule that if you really want something and you believe in it, it will one day be fulfilled, but you have to be stubborn, patient and believe in yourself.

At the moment I am looking for a job, and after a few interviews, I am now able to write some of my observations. My volunteering experience in Argentina really draws employers' attention to my CV (especially since this kind of project or doing a gap-year is not popular in my country). Now during interviews, I do not have any problem mentioning my advantages and disadvantages. Far away from my family and my friends I had the opportunity to get to know myself better and observe myself at work in an international group of people. I have many examples which confirmed my individualism, independence, creativity and skills to work in a group and solve problems. The thing that I am really proud of myself for is my courage and will to learn new things (like working with children, because it was a new experience for me) and expand my horizons.



I know that I want to work in an international environment where I can use foreign languages and help others. In my mind, volunteering is a good time to ask ourselves what to do next, where do I see myself in five years. Because I don't necessarily have to look for a job, I can set up my own company, foundation, association etc. I can look for my own space after volunteering!

How I was Colombianized!

Pia Rojahn (Germany)

Volunteer in Colombia (2015-2016)

Ten months ago, I arrived in Bogotá, Colombia. My big adventure began. I could barely speak Spanish – I just knew some basics in grammar and vocabulary. But there I was – in an unfamiliar country called Colombia, living with a Colombian family, beginning work in the International Office of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. My first and foremost challenge was the language. I am absolutely not used to being speechless. I felt very helpless and a bit like a child during the first weeks because I was babbling and stumbling a lot.

However, with time and a lot of patience from my host family and my project colleagues, I began to feel more confident speaking Spanish day by day. I will never forget the moment when I realized that I am actually able to speak Spanish quite well: I was giving a talk on exchange possibilities to a group of about 15 Colombian students. I was standing in front of them and explaining the difference between academic and cultural exchanges. When I left the room, I had a feeling of success and happiness running through my body because I just spoke to a group of strangers for 20 minutes in Spanish – and I even managed to make some jokes.



So after the speaking barriers were more or less broken, I was able to immerse myself deeper and deeper into the Colombian culture. I learned all the colloquial and funny terms like “echarse un motoso” (to take a nap), “chévere” (great) or “parcero/a” (buddy). Aside from the terms, I also got to know typical gestures or the way to show “three” with your hands (in Germany you use thumb, index finger and middle finger, whereas Colombians use middle finger, ring finger and little finger).

As I began to identify so much with the Colombians around me, my personality and expectations started to change and I became more patient and flexible. Germans tend to be really great in making plans, but if our plan does not work out, we become paralyzed and angry and struggle to come up with a new idea. In contrast to this, Colombians are maybe frustrated for about two minutes if their plan does not work out and then they just change it. Thanks to this flexibility, I had a lot of very great moments in this beautiful country.

I guess my most important achievement during my voluntary year was to stop judging and labeling things

and events from a haughty, Western world viewpoint. Just because two countries are different, it does not mean that one is much better and much more ‘developed’ than the other. Difference should not imply hierarchy. In addition, difference should be seen much more as inspiring and fruitful for change on



both sides. Of course, there are many things that I learned to appreciate much more about my home country while living here (e.g. fast and comparatively empty public transport). However, I also found many things that I felt we lack in my home country (for example solidarity or politeness). In conclusion, I can just say that I had the best time of my life and that Colombia will always be part of me.

Sharing Time and Knowledge in Costa Rica

Silja Lehtonen (Finland)

Volunteer in Costa Rica (2015-2016)

When I decided to volunteer in Costa Rica, I did it for multiple reasons. One of the most obvious ones was to get to know a new country and its culture and to explore the world. But I also wanted to do something completely different without even knowing really what will be ahead of me and to see what’s going to happen. I wanted to develop myself. Now here I am sitting in an office in San Jose, Costa Rica, and after spending 5 months here, I can say that this has truly been one of the most interesting experiences in my life.

I am working in the Costa Rican ICYE office (ACI) in a project called Banco de Tiempo Costa Rica which is a time bank. The idea is to offer a network of members who can exchange all kinds of services and activities for free with time being the only form of payment. For example, Jose can offer two hours of guitar lessons to Maria who can in exchange offers two hours of gardening to Pablo who can offer two hours of Spanish lessons to Luis and so on. The project is very independent and the volunteers working in the project are very much in charge of everything. My job is to coordinate and promote the project, subscribe new members, manage our social media channels and arrange events. I believe that I have already gained skills and knowledge that will help me in my future working life. I have learned some practical skills which I’ll go through first and then move to my bigger achievements.

I have arranged several events such as our monthly reunions with our members and a beneficial concert for our project. This has really improved my event organization skills which will for sure come in handy later in life. Also working with computers have taught me lots of new things such as how to use Google Drive, what is the most useful way to create documents, e.g. a list of members or a list of must-do tasks, and how to create polls. Working life is becoming increasingly digitalized and therefore it's good to learn how to work with computers as efficiently as possible.



Working in an international environment has been very educating. Earlier I worked with a Danish and an Austrian volunteer but now the latter has gone home. Right now there are more than 50 members, most of whom are locals and a few international volunteers. Naturally I have strengthened my already existing language skills and now I even have a new addition to my repertoire: Spanish. Of course it's not fluent (yet) but one major thing that I have learned is that it doesn't matter. I decided from the beginning to just keep trying to talk and write in Spanish and for that I have received only admiration and respect. Also by doing so I have learned really fast. The knowledge of Spanish will be useful in the future but the experience of learning is something I can integrate more widely in working life. Even though I don't completely master something, it doesn't mean I couldn't or shouldn't do it. The place where you learn is outside of your comfort zone.

I have also learned the power of networking. We have contacted several companies, media, different groups and organizations, and some of the collaborations have had excellent results: more visibility, new active members, problems solved and new partners to help our project. I have realized that most likely there is always someone somewhere who is able to help and bring your project forward. You just have to contact people and seek help. The wider your network the easier it is to work.

One of the most important things that I have learned is to respect one another. I have met a lot of people from different backgrounds, ages and nationalities, and they all have something to give. A lot of them have made quite an impression on me. Everybody can teach you something and that is really an asset we should take more advantage of. I'm almost halfway through my time here and I am sure I will keep learning and developing myself. The experiences I have had here will most certainly be something I will benefit from for the rest of my life.

Reflecting on Life

Catharina Rubel (Germany)

Volunteer in India (2012-2013)

It has been four years already since I started my volunteer year in India. I was working in a school for children with disabilities in Mysore, Karnataka, and lived in a host family together with another German volunteer. After returning to Germany, I started studying International Economics and Development. Last year, I worked six months in Belgium and studied six months in Israel, and in my free time I still volunteer a lot.



First of all, being a volunteer was more demanding than I imagined it. The most challenging part was to motivate myself in some situations to do the same work done by the other employees but to get no wage for it. There is no monetary reason to get up in the morning and go to work. Being a volunteer for an entire year changed my attitude towards work completely. In my opinion, it is better to have less money available but to go to work because you want to, because it is fun or you don't want to leave your colleagues or children alone. When contributing to something useful, you are not only working but also living.



Volunteers Voices

In addition to that, being employed in a very small institution helped me not to fear criticism any longer and to cherish feedback. For the first time, I needed to be professional and continue to do my job even though I was annoyed with somebody in the school or had a really bad day. The school also gave me opportunities to see how a project I had started or worked on was implemented, which was an amazing feeling.

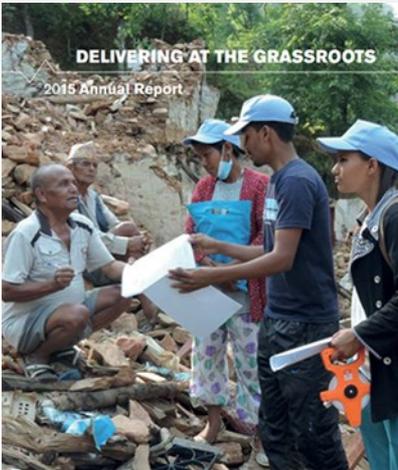


Living with an Indian family, on the other hand, made me aware of some of my personal values in life. I found out my limits to adapt to others and to certain circumstances. Looking back, the choices I made after India were probably based on those values like independence, self-reliance, and honesty. Additionally, I promised myself to never say sorry for things I don't really feel sorry about and to not always accept rules, but rather to question them. Of course those principles are not always an advantage, but knowing your needs to be happy is worth a lot.

Regarding my career, India reassured me about studying economics in order to understand economic relationships within a country and between countries. Additionally, I wanted to find out why the bus tickets in India were able to rise by 33% within one month, and what possible reasons make some countries richer than others. My volunteer year helped me to value good institutions, the protection of the environment and gender equality a lot more. Combined with my studies, I realized how important economic incentives are and in how many ways they influence a country as well as people's lives. I believe that one of the major competences I gained is to look at an issue from a lot of different perspectives and to reflect on everything. This also influences my personal relationships a lot, thus I believe that my time in India helped me to grow as an individual and to go my way in life.

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

UNV Annual Report for 2015



The UNV Annual Report for 2015, "Delivering at the Grassroots", showcases the contributions and achievements of UN Volunteers in addressing the challenges of peace and development. This is a report first and foremost about the dedication, skills and unrelenting spirit of UN Volunteers around the world. [Read more.](#)

International Youth Day 2016



The theme of the 2016 International Youth Day (12 August) is "The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Production and Consumption". This year's Day is about achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It focuses on the leading role of young people in ensuring poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development through sustainable production and consumption. Events to celebrate International Youth Day 2016 will take place at the United Nations Headquarters and around the world. Be part of the celebrations by organizing your own event or activity. You can organize an event to

celebrate International Youth Day in your community, school, youth club, or workplace. You can be part of these efforts! [Read more.](#)

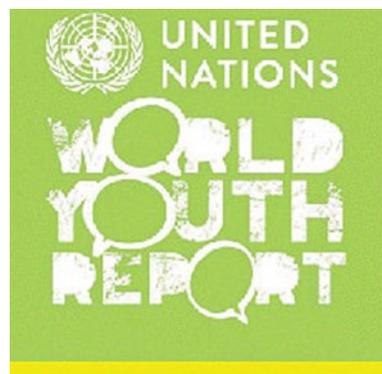
European Volunteering Forum



[Call for participants](#) open until 17th July.

The European Volunteering Forum offers the opportunity to celebrate and promote the impact of long-term transnational volunteering on people, organisations and communities, learn from different examples of practice in the field, identify current challenges, define future perspectives and encourage networking with organisations from across Europe and all of its neighbouring partner regions. [Read more and apply Now!](#)

UN Launches World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement



On 15 July the UN will launch its World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement. The Report, prepared by UN DESA, explores young people's participation in economic, political and community life, responding to a growing interest in and an increased policy focus on youth civic engagement in recent years among Governments, young people and researchers. [Read more.](#)

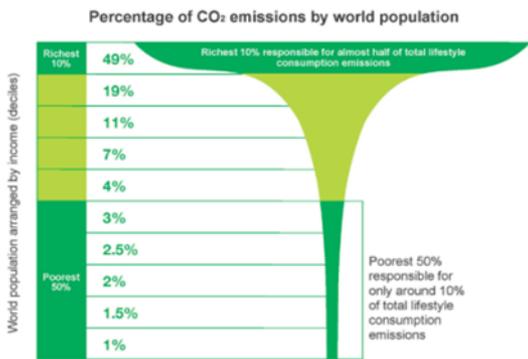
NEWS FROM NGO'S

CIVICUS - State of Civil Society Report



The 2016 State of Civil Society Report summarizes the key events, issues and trends affecting civil society around the world. The 5th annual report draws on contributions from more than 30 of the world's leading experts on civil society as well as investigative work from the CIVICUS staff, which was conducted in close partnership with hundreds of activists in the field. [Read more.](#)

How is Inequality Linked to Climate Change, and What to do About it?



Source: Oxfam

P155234-1

The principal message of the Oxfam study is that that the rich are disproportionately responsible for climate change. As evidence, it supplies the above chart showing "lifestyle carbon emissions" by income class of global population. The report defines lifestyle emissions as those that arise from consumption of goods and services, with emissions from producing those goods attributed to the country in which consumption takes place, even if they are produced elsewhere. See more at [here](#).

IFMSA: Training Manual on Climate and Health Launch



The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) have just published a pioneering [Training Manual on Climate and Health](#) with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education. As a leading youth voice on Climate and Health, IFMSA have designed this manual to provide educational opportunities for students on the health consequences of climate change, the co-benefits of mitigation, and the role of health sector in adaptation and mitigation efforts.

UNITED- Are you a #LifeSeeker?



Join the campaign at www.lifeseekers.org

[#LifeSeekers](#) is a campaign for a new approach to problems facing young people in Europe today. We want policy-makers to take positive action to solve these problems and to stop blaming migrants and refugees. Whether or not we are asylum-seekers, we are all Life Seekers, who want the freedom and power to shape our own futures. [Read more.](#)



The Role of the Youth Sector in Preventing Violent Extremism



The [European Youth Forum](#) welcomes the adoption of the Council Conclusions on “[the role of the youth sector in an integrated and cross-sectoral approach to preventing and combating violent radicalization](#)”. It calls, however, for wider society and different sectors to jointly tackle this issue, in order to avoid blaming and stigmatising vulnerable young people. To encourage this engagement, the European Youth Forum launched its own publication “[The Role of the Youth Sector in Preventing Violent Extremism](#)”. This publication outlines that youth work alone cannot combat violent radicalisation among young people, but it can help to address some of the root causes in a joint approach with other sectors, such as education, social affairs, health etc.

the apps and tools to significantly improve your web, email, social media, and visual content. [Read more.](#)



Nonprofit Tech for Good - A Social & Mobile Media Blog for Nonprofits



36 Useful Apps & Online Tools for Nonprofits

The number of low-cost or free apps and online tools available to non-profits today is astounding. Provided you set aside the time to explore and experiment, your non-profit can use

Ser Voluntario Internacional - Workshop Organized by ICYE Mexico/SIIJUVE A.C.

Within the scope of the Project *World Wise Web*, an Erasmus+ Key Action 2 project financed by the European Commission, SIIJUVE A.C held the final event, the workshop: “*Ser Voluntario Internacional*”.



The aim of the project is to improve young people competences in non-formal education, enhance the recognition of learning in non-formal contexts, web communication and advocacy as a helpful tools for all partner organizations; and to promote these issues in their own communities and at a national and European level. With this in mind, the EVS volunteers from Italy and Romania volunteering in Mexico organized a workshop in order to increase awareness of voluntary work with young people in Puebla, Mexico.

The workshops “*Ser Voluntario Internacional*” were held in a rural community called Chignahuapan in the City of Puebla and enabled the participation of around 60 youngsters. International volunteers within the ICYE and Weltwärts Programmes also participated in raising awareness of voluntary work.

ICYE Nepal’s Earthquake Reconstruction Project at Light for Nepal’s Children



After the devastating Gorkha earthquake of April 25, 2015, by mid-June 2016 ICYE-Nepal has successfully completed an earthquake relief and rebuilding project for Light for Nepal’s Children, an orphanage they have been working with since 2013. This orphanage, lo-

cated at Phutung, Kathmandu, was badly damaged and children were left without safe and proper shelter.

This project was possible thanks to the overall donations of € 5.200 from the ICYE National Committees in Austria, Colombia, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Uganda, UK, USA, Vietnam and the ICYE Federation.

The ICYE-Nepal team together with staff of Light for Nepal’s Children helped to reconstruct an earthquake resistant building and setting up a new, well-stocked kitchen for the orphanage; new beds, mattresses and blankets, a new study hall, security fences and gate,

As ICYE Nepal says “Even a small help from us can go a long way in alleviating the difficulties of those in desperate need of support.”

Global Volunteering Day 2016, Hanoi, Vietnam



Through the theme *Active Citizens - Peaceful Engagement – Sustainable Living*, the **Global Volunteering Day**, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 9th April 2016, aimed at fostering an exchange among cultures, educating young people on peace and sustainable development in society.

Organised by **Volunteers for Peace Vietnam (VPV) - ICYE Vietnam** in collaboration with the **British Council** and **Centre for Sustainable Development Studies**, the Global Volunteering Day was attended by more than 100 international representatives and volunteers from 26 countries, over 1000 Vietnamese youth and local volunteers. The Global Volunteering Day 2016 sought to raise funds for “Bring water to school, open path for future”, a project run by the VPV Club in the Yen Bai province of Vietnam. It comprised a range of workshops and activities, including an online contest for a better community, a cultural exhibition presen-



ting 26 countries, a stage show in which international and national volunteers narrated their stories, dance performances and much more.

#FuerzaEcuador



A group of volunteers from VASE/ICYE Ecuador together with the NGO Techo are supporting the construction of houses for the victims of the earthquake in Ecuador. Last weekend they could finally go to Muíne to build seven houses and with this video they give a little insight into what they did and at the same time to say thank you to those, without whom it would have not been possible. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

ICYE Berlin Reunion

An informal reunion of former Staff of the ICYE International Office (IO) and members of the Board of Managers (BoM) took place in Berlin, from the 5th to the 8th of May.



Photo taken in front of the IO - from left to right: Kathrine Clausen (IO Intern - Denmark), Miguel Peñaranda (IO Staff and BoM - Bolivia), Hoffy Gardasottir (BoM - Iceland), Yozafath Norori (IO Intern - Honduras), Gianni Mondini (Financial Advisor - Italy), Martha Mendez (European Office Staff - Mexico/Belgium), Andreas Kirchner (ICJA), Regina Méry (IO Staff - Germany), Salvatore Romagna (current IO Staff - Italy), Annemarie Cordes (IO Staff - Germany), Sergio Andreis (IO Staff - Italy), Stefan Bräuchi (current IO Staff - Switzerland), Jan Hultman (BoM - Sweden).

Gauging Impact Conference, Bogotá Colombia, April 2016

The **Gauging Impact Conference** in Bogotá was the last activity of the Erasmus+ Key Action 2 project **Communicating Human Rights in Diversity**. It was

hosted by **ICYE Colombia** and brought together **22 multipliers** from **16 countries** worldwide (Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Poland, Sweden, UK, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Kenya and Mozambique).



The project, with a life span of 17 months taking place from **March 2015 to July 2016**, comprised a range of activities and components: an international multipliers training hosted by **Dansk ICYE** in Copenhagen, Denmark (March 2015), an 8-month EVS for 14 young volunteers (April - November 2015), 13 local Human Rights Education trainings for volunteers and host projects, a qualitative study assessing the impact of the project on volunteers, and the Gauging Impact Conference.

During the five-day Bogotá conference, human rights multipliers assessed the overall project, further developed human rights education methods and draft programmes for the "Human Right Education for Volunteering Toolkit" (to be published soon), examined the findings of the project's research study, and planned follow-up actions to ensure that the learning from the project is taken forward. A visit to the EVS host project **Fundación Nuevos Horizontes** brought interesting perspectives on human rights in relation to internally displaced people.

ICYE Impact Assessment - Human Rights in Diversity

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



We are happy to announce the release of the report of the research study set within the framework of the Erasmus+ project **Communicating Human Rights in Diversity**. The qualitative study is composed of 17 volunteers from different European, African, Asian and Latin American countries. The study assesses the impacts of the human rights in Diversity project and volunteering experience on the socio-cultural and personal development of the volunteers and analyses the key components for creating positive impact. The report can be accessed [here](#).

Promoting Volunteering: Calling Youth to Action in a Global Visibility Drive

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



The new Erasmus+ Key Action 2 project **Calling Youth to Action in a Global Visibility Drive** centrally coordinated by the ICYE International Office has been approved by the European Commission. The *main aim of the project* is to promote the value of the volunteering experience in terms of benefits to the host project and the volunteer, as well as to inform, debate and exploit the results and benefits of EVS and ICYE volunteering programmes.

The key activity of the project is the **Multipliers' Training for a Global Visibility Drive**, which will be hosted by **ICYE Ghana** and take place in **Accra, Ghana, in November 2016**. The training will offer participating organisations the necessary know-how and tools for effective communication and dissemination of programmes and project results. The training will be followed by **promotion campaigns** taking place over **7 months from January 2017 – July 2017** in **the 21 countries** in the project. Campaigns will promote volunteering and work toward increasing the visibility of volunteers, volunteer organisations and programmes worldwide. Participating countries include: Austria, UK, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Slovakia, Poland, France, Iceland, Switzerland, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Mozambique, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Nepal and Vietnam.