

Don't Dream it Be it

INEX SLOVAKIA
HOSTING ORGANISATION
ELIX
SENDING ORGANISATION

LONG TERM EUROPEAN
VOLUNTARY SERVICE

OUTCOME MAR - DEC 2018
BRATISLAVA SLOVAKIA

ANTHONY
VASILEIOU

EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE (EVS)

European Voluntary service is a branch of the Erasmus+ programme and enables young people from 18-30 to travel and work abroad. It offers several volunteering opportunities through many nonprofit organisations that publish their projects and look for volunteers to apply and join their project. There's a large variety of topics for participants to choose from (Youth participation, Environment and climate change, Youth Policy, EU awareness and Democracy etc.) and the standardised process of applying permits all parties to fulfil an agreement effortlessly.

DON'T DREAM IT BE IT

"Don't dream it be it" is the title of the EVS project organised by INEX Slovakia in 2018. It's a 10 month long position suitable for volunteers from European and programme countries who would like to participate in an diverse project. To define that diversity here are some of the volunteer's task:

Administrative work

Update of the organisation's website and social media

Event coordination

Participation in promotional activities and organising international workcamps

INEX Slovakia aims to offer volunteering activities to youth that will enhance their personal development and several activities based on the format of Non formal education.

W O R K C A M P S

As mentioned above, the EVS volunteers of INEX Slovakia are responsible of organising workcamps in Slovakia.

What is a "workcamp" though?

Workcamps are 1-2 week international projects where volunteers from any country can join. They travel to the location of the project and work on the realisation of the desired outcome. The themes of the project range from manual labour to helping people with disabilities or festival organisation and environmental preservation.

INEX SLOVAKIA WORKCAMP 2018



Brekov Castle



Lipovce Castle



Integra Centre



zlatna na Ostrove



Barlicka Centre



Obisovce Castle



Cabrad Castle



Eco Slatinka

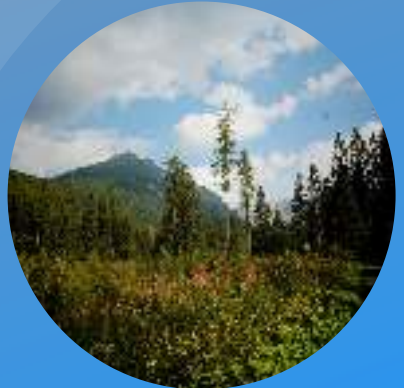
LIPOVCE WORKCAMP

Lipovce was my first workcamp. My team and I were tasked to visit a small village in east Slovakia and its picturesque castle ruins! We were the first workcamp to visit the location and start the reparation process. As a result we managed to make access for vehicles possible, cleaned the area around the tower and made the first steps for the restoration process to begin!



BARLICKA WORKCAMP

In August, I participated in another workcamp as leader. Not a castle one this time though! Barlicka is a centre for the elderly and people with disabilities in Presov. The volunteering team organised daily activities and trips for the clients and visited several local attraction of the Saris region!



TEA MEETINGS

Once per month we organised a get together in the office and invited people to attend our tea meetings. We tried to organise events with various topics so there's something interesting for everyone. My personal favourite would be the Big European Quiz one! Some others were focused on travel experience, EVS and workcamp stories.



PROMO ACTIONS

Part of an EVS volunteer's tasks is to promote INEX Slovakia in several events! I had the chance to participate in such occasions and talk about all the possibilities INEX Slovakia can offer to youth and anyone interested! I must admit it's a very interesting and "educational" experience for a person because of the quick and targeted interaction and communication that must be achieved with the people passing by the booth.



10 MONTHS IN SLOVAKIA

Before relocating to Bratislava, the only bit of knowledge I had about Slovakia was its location on the map and that Bratislava is the capital. I was expecting a cultural clash because of the vast difference of my country of origin but that never happened. The transition was quite quick and smooth. I met new friends, started learning Slovak, explored the city and eventually the country. I enjoyed visiting all these new places quite a lot and I even saw sceneries impossible to be found in other countries!

For a more in depth look of my experience in the country check out my blog:
www.superdakujem.wordpress.com

BRATISLAVA

Walking around Bratislava's old town is truly a great experience! Architectural elements are visible and several buildings are preserved to their original condition or look. Spending 10 months in the city was a breeze! Bratislava may not be a European metropolitan but it certainly has the essence. Overall, a compact and beautiful city with a plethora of options suitable for everyone!



Z I L I N A

Thanks to the EVS on arrival training, I visited Zilina, a small town in north-western Slovakia. It was a small but picturesque place with greenery all around it.



POPRADSKE PLESO HIGH TATRAS

I had the chance to visit High Tatras during Barlicka workcamp and hike for the first time! As exhausting as it was, the scenery was more than rewarding!



B U D A P E S T

I wasn't able to comprehend why Budapest is called "Paris of the east" but by the time I arrived, I came across one of the most majestic locations I've ever seen. Even on a rainy day the city looked breathtaking and mysterious with beautiful landmarks for sightseeing and an interesting history! Just like any other tourist would say, the Buda side is nicer!



V I E N N A

There's this old saying "If you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything at all". I will try to work my way around it by saying that Vienna looks like any other central European city. A day trip is more than enough to get all the nice photos.



P A R I S

After seeing Paris of the east, I thought maybe it's time to visit the real one this time. Paris is a true European capital with rich history combined with modernity seamlessly. I spent 3 days walking around and trying to see as much as possible. Needless to say, 3 days are not enough!



PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

Joining a 10 month EVS programme ended up being a great educational and practice step towards my employment.

It helped me realise various characteristics of my personality and also enabled me to work on myself.

Firstly, I have always thought of myself as an outgoing and communicative person which was very helpful for this specific EVS project. One of the many things I have learned though, is that these are not enough. I understood how to structure my thoughts and overtime became more organised. Apart from that, having to fulfil various tasks, I had to start thinking out of the box.

ADVICE I WISH I HAD

- The people you will interact with are probably very different than what you are used to. Get comfortable with the idea as soon as possible and you will be better off.

- If you have any idea about work or change you would like to make, structure your thoughts, make a plan and then share it!

- Always "stand your ground". Accept other opinions to an extent that will be beneficial for you but support and defend yourself.

THANK YOU!



For this amazing year full of many and splendid experience, I would have to thank INEX Slovakia's permanent employees that welcomed me so warmly, Majka, Monika, Mirka and Jarka!

Also, Carina and Maud, my brilliant EVS colleagues that I got to spent a fascinating year with!

