



Eduact

ESC Hosting Project



Hosting Organization:

Eduact - Action for Education

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Coordinating Organization:

United Societies of Balkans

Email: volunteer@usbngo.gr

Central Office: +30 2310215629

About USB

United Societies of Balkans (U.S.B.) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Thessaloniki, Greece, working in the field of youth mobility, participation and promoting youth awareness of social issues. It was founded in 2008 by the initiative of a group of active young people who wanted to address the social issues which affect the youngsters in the Balkans and Eastern Europe., so it needs to be flexible, meaningful, and consistent enough for future issues.



Website: www.usbngo.gr
Email: volunteer@usbngo.gr
Facebook: facebook.com/usbngo/
Twitter: twitter.com/usbngo
Instagram: [usbngo](https://www.instagram.com/usbngo)

Objectives

The goal of the organisation is the promotion of youth mobility, youth involvement and participation, voluntarism and human rights. We make it through:

- Promoting the values of non formal learning, voluntarism, active citizenship and democracy for the creation of a better future for the European youth;
- Involving minorities and immigrants into youth activities;
- Building healthy cooperation bridges between countries in the area of the Balkans and Eastern Europe with the rest of Europe;
- Using New Media and Citizens' Journalism methodologies to encourage youth expression, to raise awareness of Human Rights and to promote intercultural dialogue;
- Utilizing arts as a tool for the cultivation and expression of youth;
- Breaking down prejudices and stereotypes among the European countries and amongst youth.

In order to make all our actions more effective, USB is also member of several networks, such as Anna Lindh Foundation, Thess Diktio, Youth for Exchange and Understanding.

About Eduact



Eduact is a non profit, beneficent organization founded in Thessaloniki in 2013 having as a target the introduction of innovation and entrepreneurship in the educational process. Our vision is to redefine the education which is provided today emphasizing in equal participation of all social groups in programs that form people with leading skills and social awareness.



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Policy and Objectives



In order to create a better tomorrow, with quality and innovation in education, Eduact pays great attention to the equal participation of all social groups in programs that shape youth with leadership skills and social sensitivity. Thus, with the support of a large network of volunteers with passion for their subject, and the additional contribution of educators, entrepreneurs and university faculty from around the world, initiatives have been organized through which children cultivate their knowledge, broaden their horizons, discover science and technology in the most entertaining way and, above all, gain valuable skills for their social life. These initiatives include the Innovative Educational Robotics Workshops, the Robotics World Championship, the Panhellenic Robotics Championship, the Robotics and STEAM Program for schools that was designed and developed for the 'Skills Labs' of greek schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and many more.

About the project

Eduact organizes workshops for kids to participate actively and design a robotics program based on their own needs. By doing so we are giving another approach of the educational process and an opportunity for the kids to use their knowledge in a practical way. The workshops run by young trainers, familiar with technology, with the ability to approach knowledge through informal education.

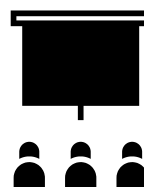
Moreover we use hands on activities in which, educators, kids and parents, create together and unfurl their imagination. One of the main priorities of Eduact is to provide equal opportunities for learning to any individual. We give the chance to refugees, children from minorities and children with disruptive behavior, young inmates and young people who are facing social exclusion to participate in innovative educational programs.

Volunteers' role

Volunteers will mainly support the communication department for the organisation and promotion of the activities as well as the dissemination of the results. They can thus engage in activities relevant to their personal skills and get the chance to get accustomed to the practices of the organisation, in its field of expertise. Through their tasks, they can enhance their skills and knowledge in IT, graph design and videomaking. Volunteers will also support the implementation of workshops and events organised by Eduact.

The volunteers work from Monday to Friday, for a maximum of 35 hours per week.

Provided Seminars



Task-related seminars and sessions are provided for volunteers by the professionals of the organisation, helping them in the effective implementation of their tasks as well as to broaden their knowledge and skills. As part of their experience, volunteers will also have the chance to attend media related workshops, or workshops-seminars for social topics, organised by USB.

Personal Project



We truly believe that for volunteers the European Solidarity Corps is an opportunity to learn, to improve themselves and to discover and develop their personality and competences. For this reason we encourage our volunteers to develop a personal project besides the daily work for Balkan Hotspot project. With the support of their Mentor the volunteers will develop a concrete personal plan with the objective of creating a personal project based on their own interests and goals.

Volunteers' Profile

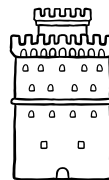


The selection of the participants is mostly based on their motivation and personal interest in the topics of the project. They must be ready to work in a team and to share their daily life with people from different backgrounds. A basic level of English is required for volunteers to implement their tasks and facilitate their everyday life and communication.

For this project we are looking for people who are familiar being around with young kids, are outgoing and flexible. Although the project does not require from participants to have experience in robotics, we need people who have skills in 1 or more of the following 3 main areas: graphic design, IT skills and photography/videography, since a big part of the tasks will be on the promotion of the activities and its results.



Thessaloniki



Thessaloniki is the second biggest city in Greece, and it is located in the North-East part of the country. It is a coastal city full of life, with a lots of youngsters and students. In 2014 it has been the European Youth Capital. It is also a city with a long history and tradition. It has always been a crossroad between the West and the East and a trading harbour for many Balkan countries. It embraces many immigrants and cultural groups from many areas of the wider region of the Balkans, which renders it a colourful mosaic of cultures and trends. More information is available on the website of the municipality: www.thessalonikicity.gr

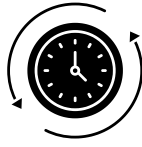


In the vicinity



Interesting cities and places nearby: Meteora's monasteries, Pozar thermal natural baths, Kavala city and lots of other historical and natural places. Travel to other countries: from Thessaloniki you will have the chance to get easily to the Balkan countries, well connected by plane, train or even bus. You can visit Serbia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, North Macedonia, Turkey, Albania.

Daily work



The volunteers usually work in shift of 4–6 hours per day from Monday to Friday. The organisation can ask them to work more hours or during the weekends if needed, for a maximum of **35 hours per week**. Every week there is a meeting with the Coordinator to check the working plan of the previous week and schedule the working plan for the next week. Individual or group meetings will be organised with the Mentor to talk about their personal project and development. The volunteers have the right to get two free days per month for which they must ask 2 weeks in advance to the Volunteer Coordinator except for very urgent reasons. They will have free days during Greek national holidays too.

Language



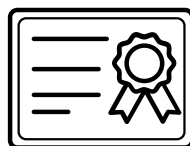
Since the beginning of 2016, volunteers can take part in the online language courses through the online linguistic support platform created by the Erasmus+ programme: <http://erasmusplusols.eu/>

We provide extra Greek language courses and we try to encourage volunteers to learn the language through informal and non formal learning, participating in events and activities with Greek people:

- TANDEM meetings, where people from different countries help each other to learn and practice languages and
- assigning to each volunteer a local young "buddy"

According the interest of the volunteers, we can also provide presencial greek lessons in our offices.

Youthpass



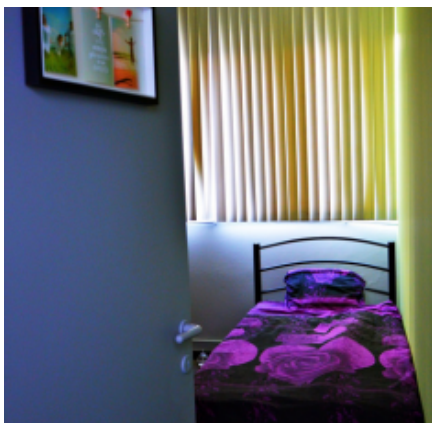
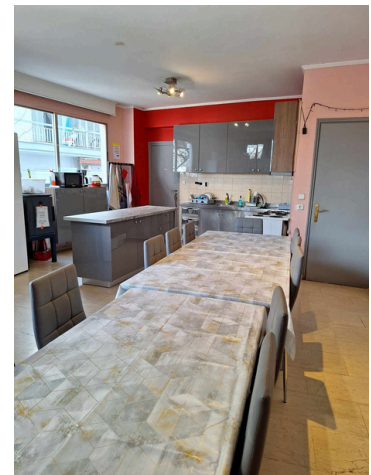
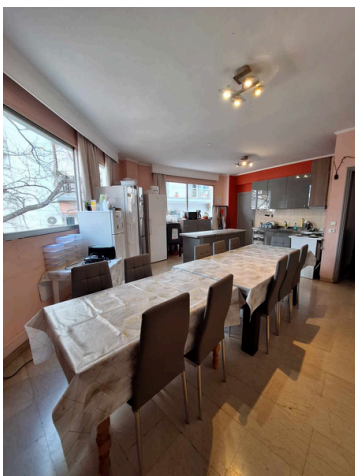
Youthpass is the official recognition tool for non-formal & informal learning in youth projects. Through it participants of Erasmus+ projects can describe what they have done and show what they have learnt. Volunteers have to keep a diary of their activities and learning in order to fulfill it properly at the end of their project. The Mentor is the responsible for the Youthpass and will support the volunteers for it.

Accommodation



Volunteers are going to be accommodated in a fully equipped building located in the city centre (Anagnostara, 13) near the main bus and train station of the city. It is an autonomous 5 floored building of 150 m2 per floor and a terrace on the 6th floor. There are two living rooms and a big kitchen, showers in the common floors and toilets in every floor. In the building there are also accommodated the volunteers who participate in other projects in the city coordinated by our organisation. Each volunteer will share their room with one or three more people (we have double and big quadruple rooms). In the building are living up to 35 volunteers. More info about the rules are in the residence statute.

There are also single rooms for people with special needs or for interns. Wireless internet is available in the whole building. The House Manager coordinate the cleanings and the organisation of the spaces in the house and work every morning in the common spaces from Monday to Friday.



Food Policy



We provide our volunteers with three meals per day through a catering service that prepares the food according to their preferences and allergies (also if they are vegan or vegetarian). Mamma's tapper (<http://www.catering.gr/>) is the local catering company that provides food to our volunteers. In this way the volunteers will have the possibility to get in contact with the Greek cuisine and culture, but at the same time on Saturdays and Sundays they can cook and enjoy their own food. In the weekly days the House Tender will prepare the breakfast. The kitchen is always available for the volunteers if they want to cook something more or add ingredients to their food.



Insurance and Health



The participants will have a private insurance by HENNER, which covers all their needs for the whole duration of their project and even after that (for a few months). The registration to the insurance is made by the organisation. A network of doctors and hospitals is already available in order to meet all their needs, even the most urgent. The Mentor is responsible for all the issues connected with health and insurance.



Cooperation with the SO



A strong cooperation between the sending and the hosting organisation is very important for the good progress of the project. The sending organisation has to communicate with the volunteers and keep a report of their educational process and their daily life. The Volunteer Coordinator provides feedback to the sending organisation about the fulfilled tasks and the Mentor will communicate about personal issues of the volunteer.

USB Network



United Societies of Balkans is coordinating numerous ESC projects in the city. The volunteers hosted by other organisations are accommodated at the same building of our volunteers. There might be several activities where the volunteers of the network will participate all together. This network also help the volunteers to know more about what is going on in the city and about other issues faced by the other organisations. The Network's Coordinator support the other coordinators' project and is the responsible for the common activities and events.



Our Team



ESC Manager

General Coordination,
practical arrangements

Christian



Volunteers' Coordinator

Daily support
Volunteers' team
leading,
Task-related support

Antonia



Finance Manager

Ticket
reimbursement
Financial issues

Christina



Mentor

Personal
development,
Personal project
Health and
social issues,
Youthpass.

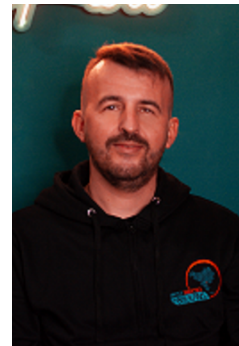
Ourania



ESC Manager

General Coordination,
practical
arrangements

Christos



House tender

House
cleaning, all
house issues,
meals.

Dionisis



President

Supervise the
project and
support the team.

Aris



Useful links



European Youth Portal : https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

Project website: www.balkanhotspot.org

Thessaloniki's info: www.thessalonikicity.gr

Website: www.usbngo.gr

Email: volunteer@usbngo.gr

Facebook: facebook.com/usbngo/

Twitter: twitter.com/usbngo

Instagram: [usbngo](https://www.instagram.com/usbngo)

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SOLIDARITY
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