



### "Yes volunteering"

#### Third step of a European project that continues ... by Smart Working

The Erasmus+ project "Yes volunteering" which the Aurive social cooperative of Novara, together with 6 partner organisations, is its middle step of implementation. To further enhance project results and plan next step the partnership organized the third video conference seminar, which will be held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in Smart Working.

This is an Erasmus Plus strategic partnerships project for adults focused on the exchange of good practices in the field of volunteering for inclusion, involving associations from 6 countries: Italy (Aurive), Portugal (Rightchallenge); Austria (InterAktion); Turkey (Yasam Boyu Egitim Dernegi); Slovenia (Novo Mesto); Deses 3 (Spain).

Unfortunately Corona virus emergency is still affecting the project implementation, so partner had the chance to meet personally only during the kick off meeting held in december 2019. After both the planned meeting in Portugal and now the planned meeting in Gradz, Austria, managed with the support of the partner association Verein Interaktion, were forcibly turned into an online meeting. Even if still held on distance the meeting will further enhance collaborative ways of smart working, allowing to 12 social workers to access individually with their connections and to participate in the work.

The project carries on an advanced reflection on volunteering and on how successful experiences can improve the employment chances of disadvantaged adults and young people (with special regard to immigrants, long-term unemployed, young people with low skills and qualifications, disabled people).

**Specifically the coming online meeting will be an chance to analyze the results of the local activities of the project, started after the second meeting held in smart working in march 2020.** The partners in recent months have carried out a research on the value given by employers to volunteering experiences in the Curriculum Vitae of the job seekers. More than 300 questionnaires were collected to better understand, from employers point of view, if a potential worker can be more attractive to be hired in the case he has a volunteering background or he is currently volunteering. The research was held as a critical step in supporting potential volunteers to consider volunteering not only for personal but also for professional empowerment. The research results will be a also crucial tool to make employer more aware of the impact of volunteering experiences in the development of some soft and hard skills which can be relevant also in the working environment. Finally the collected information are aimed to help the "Yes volunteering" Erasmus+ Ka2 project Team to improve the quality of volunteering programs, finding the best way to use volunteering as a tool to meet the empowerment needs of job seekers as well as the needs of employers and society. During the September 2020 transnational meeting partner will confront on the results of this analysis in the view to realize a research report. During the last months partners also worked to collect, document and disseminate a set of best practices of skills empowerment through volunteering programs; with special regard to some volunteering programs managed in international settings, as well as best practices of inclusion through volunteering programs managed in emergency situations (mostly volunteering programs during Corona Virus emergency). Each partner realized some video interviews with the protagonists (staff members and volunteers) of effective volunteering programs in the mentioned areas carried out by the partner or at national level in the involved countries. The meeting is an important moment of confrontation with expert social workers and will also be an opportunity to plan the next steps of the project, as well as the next meeting in the hope of starting to travel again and being able to see each other again in person soon.

Info [www.aurive.it/yesvounteering.weebly.com](http://www.aurive.it/yesvounteering.weebly.com)

