***Project Summary:***

The EVS project "Pass Ahead" is specially designed for youngsters who want to work with youth, as they are а part of the organization of events of different nature, but aimed at young people. They will be a part of the organization and will be involved in every aspect of the work of the association - from taking care of the communication with the partners, through meetings with young people discussing issues related to the opportunities for learning and development through EU programs, to implementation of Erasmus + projects or other programs aimed at the development of young people, both personal and professional. The project will be implemented in the picturesque Renaissance town of Tryavna and will last 12 months. During this time, the volunteers will be part of the implementation of our projects and local initiatives, as one of the most significant, in which they will participate will be working with children from kindergartens and the Center for Rehabilitation and Social Integration, where they will help the educators and the social workers in the activities related to art, such as painting, coloring, modelling, etc. and also in the outdoor/indoor sports activities with the little ones. They will help in organizing various exhibitions, where kids will present their work. Furthermore, they will also help in the implementation of another initiative related to youngsters from the town` schools - outside the classroom activities and events that will be organized jointly with the primary and secondary school and the National School of Fine Arts. These Actions will be in the form of organizing various sport events, picnics, hiking and trekking in nature, as basically they are designed to awaken the love of nature, awareness for its protection and various forms of sports and outdoor entertainment. Non-formal education and methods of learning by doing will be mainly overlap in the project as volunteers themselves will have complete freedom to propose and implement their ideas for different events and initiatives. The results of this project will be bilateral - volunteers will learn a lot about the work and the organization of work in an association from a firsthand and young people in other hand will have contact youngsters their age from another country and thus give them a very good example that borders no longer exists, if you want to realize and pursue your dreams but the limits we have are those we set ourselves. Intercultural experience that both parties will share is also very important, because in a small town like Tryavna two very different cultures will meet, and this in turn will open the minds of young people from the town about the different cultures and will be the first step to crossing the boundary of the unknown. Long-term benefit of this project is again a bilateral - volunteers will gain quite solid knowledge about working in an association and its management, and will also learn many new techniques for working with children and young people which will inevitably help in their personal and professional development in the future, and young people from the town will gain invaluable international experience without going outside Bulgaria, but in contrast, will receive the incentive to acquire more knowledge about the world and then come back home and help in the development of a better society and a brighter future for us all.

***Project Activities:***

There are three main groups of activities which the volunteers will perform: activities directly related to the functioning of the association; project activities related to the association, and personal projects and initiatives which the volunteers will organize.

The first group includes the following sub-activities:

 - Renovation of the FB and the website of the association before, during and after an event / project. I.e. timely upload of photos, materials and information on upcoming, current and past events.

 - Assistance in the preparation of promotional materials for upcoming events:

 - Participate in meetings with young people from the city who come to the office of the Association in order to get more information on the opportunities offered by the EU for study and travel.

The second group includes the following sub-activities:

 - Assistance in coordinating the volunteers` work during projects.

 - Help in maintaining the eco paths around the city, which are going to be reconditioned by the Association, the help of other organizations and local people.

 - Participation in information meetings on Erasmus +, and the opportunities it offers.

 - To assist and participate in the distribution and promotion of local and international volunteering, through various initiatives and activities.

 - To take part in weekly activities organized by the Association: in workshops created jointly with local institutions working with kids, kinder gardens and schools; in hiking, trekking and extracurricular/outside activities organized by the association with students from schools;

In the third group are all kinds of activities that volunteers want to organize and can be handled/supported by the association with their implementation: organizing any kind of performances, language courses, technical courses, etc. etc.

***Additional information:***

**Eligible participants:** 2 youngsters with Portuguese residence with age between 18 and 30years.

**Duration:** 12months, starting from 25th of September 2015.

**Working hours:** 30 h/week; 2 free days a week and 2 working days for holidays per month.

**Working language:** English (Bulgarian will be considered as an advantage, but is not obligatory)

**Accommodation**: In an apartment close to the center, fully equipped and covered by the organization.

**Travel costs:** Reimbursement for a return ticket for a distance up to 2 999 km – up to 360 Euro/participant

For a distance between 3 000 and 3 999 km – up to 530 Euro/participant. To check the distance, click at the [link](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm)

**Monthly** **allowance**: 220 Euro (150 Euro monthly allowances and 70 Euro pocket money)

**Linguistic support:** Provided by CYA with a teacher and a volunteer.

**Insurance & Health assistance:** The volunteers are entitled to have an AXA insurance that covers health problems and accidents, your Sending organization should activate yours before you start your project. Before you come to Bulgaria we highly rec­ommend that you ask for a European Health Insurance Card, in order to have the same medical rights has a Bulgarian citizen. In­stead of paying a lot of money for a consulta­tion in the hospital, you will pay the normal tax if you make the European Health Insur­ance Card.

***About the Hosting organization:***

*“The Change is in You”* association has been established to support the youngsters which are willing to broaden their horizons and make an actual change in their own societies by using and implementing what they have learned from all around the world.

Our main goal is to create the bridge between the formal, informal and non-formal education as well as the bridge between the governmental institutions, the business and the society.

Our idea is via using non-formal methods and approaches to promote volunteering services and informal education as a tool for motivating youngsters to study harder and be more open minded towards different cultures, religious, genders, nationalities etc.

Main objectives of the organization:

\* Help the development of the civil society and incorporation of young people into its democratic values and principles.

\* Stimulate the unrestricted exchange of ideas and information, intellectual values and models of cooperation.

\* Prevent and react against the negative phenomena amongst young people (youth crime, drug addiction, prostitution, racism, xenophobia, etc.).

\* Promote quality education, social help and qualification of young people.

\* Help integration and socialization of people with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, and young people in the lowest income bracket.

\* Offer social favor to society.

\* Stand up for the values of the civil society.

\* Introduce new programs and models of human communication and relationships.

\* Partnership and cooperation with local authorities, organizations and institutions connected with young people.

\* Give access of young people to modern achievements and information technologies.

\* Encourage wider participation of local community in education development and youth work.

\* Popularize European and local volunteering.

\* Work together on common projects with Tryavna Social Rehabilitation and Integration Centre, “Kalina” kindergarten, “Svetlina” kindergarten, High School of Fine Arts – Tryavna, “Prof. P. N. Raykov” Elementary school, “P. R. Slaveykov” Secondary school thanks to the Erasmus + programme of the European commission and European Volunteering Service.

***About the town:***

Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tryavna>

Internet portal: <http://www.tryavna.bg/en/>

Around the town from the sky: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUH6igKc6iE>