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THE YOUTH

unity

diversity

honesty

freedom

globalisation

EU PROGRAMMES THAT YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF, BUT YOU DEFINITELY SHOULD HAVE!

The EU for the Youth

Agnieszka Pilarska



You have for sure have heard of Erasmus+ Programme. It is one of the most successful programmes of the EU so far. Last year there was a celebration of its 30th anniversary around Europe.

Thanks to the programme, as an EU citizen, you can travel to another country and study at up to one year at the Univeristies in sunny Spain or picturesque Iceland, with a financial support to cover some a part of (approximately a half) the expenses. We all know that.

Not everyone, however, is aware of a variety of projects that creates the Erasmus+ programme. In this article, you will get to know some of the great opportunities that are given to all EU citizen that are especially directed to the youth.

MOBILITY

To begin with, the youth exchanges. If you are interested in getting some international experience and checking how you would feel surrounded by people from different cultures in a totally new place, but you are afraid of 5-month study exchange, is it is a perfect choice. Youth exchanges last between 5 and 21 days and are open to people between 13 and 30. They give a chance to create new bonds and exchange ideas thorough a non-formal education, such as outdoor activities, role-plays, workshops or debates. In a consequence, you will gain valuable skills and knowledge, that cannot be gained at school or by reading any course book. Every project takes place in a country within the EU and has a specific topic for concerning for instance the environment, international relations or cultural exchange. The EU grant supports travel expenses, food, accommodation and activity materials costs.

WORK

The second initiative are the traineeships abroad for Bachelor, Master and PhD students currently enrolled in higher institutions. There is also a chance to take part in the programme up to one year after a graduation. The traineeship can last the minimum of 2 months and maximum of 12 months. It is a great opportunity to gain work experience, references, get to know valuable indivisibles from the specific area in the international environment. You will be able to make use of all of the knowledge you gained while pursuing your degree, polish your language skills and also see how does the corporate culture look like in another country. Another advantage is, that there are no limitations in the choice of your employer, besides it your traineeship need to be relevant and degree-related for your study programme. You can become an intern in the foreign entrepreneurship, non-profit organization, research facility or any other institution such as a hospital, museum or administrative unit. Let's assume that you found a perfect internship, in the field of your interests and a country that suits you the most. The only disadvantage it has, it is an unpaid job. Don't cross it out yet, because this is the situation where the EU will give you a hand! You can apply for an Erasmus+ grant that will cover a substantial part of your further spending, in a case of both, paid or unpaid internships.

VOLUNTEERING

If you want to contribute to the society and make world a better place in general – this programme will fulfill your needs. The volunteering project lasts a minimum of 2 weeks and maximum of 12 months,



participants needs to be between age of 18 and 30. All key costs related to your volunteering project are covered (accommodation, board and the local transport, pocket money). As a volunteer, you commit yourself to the work of an organization aboard. There is a wide variety of activities that can be done during your volunteering duration in the areas of for example social care, environmental protection or culture. And the numbers of benefits for both, you and the society is countless. First and foremost, you will establish new bonds, improve your communication and interpersonal skills, gain priceless experience working in a team. Volunteering helps to feel part of a community and society, as well as brings fun and fulfillment to life.

Take a first step and make the most out of this experience. We can't wait to see you in some of the EU projects.

EYEFOR EYE: EUROPEAN YOUTH EVENT EXPLAINED

Juan Lopez



The European Union has faced some turbulences in the past years that suppose a big challenge to solve in order to maintain our stability as a whole. The young generations are the ones that will have to deal with the decisions that EU takes in the near years, and we have a lot to say and propose.

Would you like to get more involved in how our union works, propose solutions to these challenges and gather with thousands of others like you to raise multiple voices as one? We have the opportunity to do this, and many more in the European Youth Event. But what exactly is this event about? Here we provide a basic guide!

This year event is focused on 4 main topics:

YOUNG AND OLD

Our current level of development and technology has allowed the European population to reach a higher age than our generations before, but this situation has lead to new challenges, now we should adapt the three stages of life (Education, work and retirement) to this new reality. We should also think about the voting gap between old and young, the youth participation has been always in pretty low numbers, how can we promote the youth involvement in the european politics? Can the new technologies and internet help us in this task? These topics and many more will be discussed!

RICH AND POOR

How can we fight tax evasion? Is globalization leading us to a fair and solidary european society? How can we decrease the gap between rich and poor? New ways of economy have been booming in the past years, and the sharing economy is more popular than ever, and the start ups businesses have been a way of channeling the explosive creativity of the young europeans, how we can we support these kind of businesses? Is the European union looking for a "free trade" or for "fair trade"?

APART AND TOGETHER

After the refugee crisis, nationalist and discrimination actions have increased all over Europe, and the unity and diversity values in which the European Union lays have been threatened. How can we recover the faith in each other and go back to our cooperation model? Will Brexit suppose a domino effect with many other country or will the Europeans find in this action the power to become a stronger union?

SAFE AND DANGEROUS

Ethical debates will be some of the main topics of the European Youth Event. New science tools allow us to change the human genome, is this technology something that will reveal us new aspects of the human nature or will suppose a threat to human equality? About drugs, marijuana legalization has been a long lasting debate, and the model in some countries like Netherlands have proven that its consumption has decreased after its legalization, and has removed its movement in the black market. Should the fear for a terrorist attack lead to a closed European fortress?

LOCAL AND GLOBAL

Climate change is a reality, strong scientific evidence warn us that we should take action, and as soon as possible. Are all the countries of the union following the deadlines of the horizon 2020? How can we strength our fight against wildlife traffickers and preserve our nature? Massive farm production suppose a big risk for our environment, how can we deal with this without threaten the European culture.

When?: 1st and 2nd of June, 2018

Where?: European parliament's seat at Strasbourg, France

Prize?: It is FREE! But you will have to pay for your travel and accommodation

Participants?: young Europeans aged between 16 and 30 (as of June 2018), registered as a group of at least 10 people, from any EU Member State or another European country. Groups can only be registered by a group leader.

For more information and registration visit:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/european-youth-event/en/home/home.html>



EU FOR DUMMIES – THE HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Anxo Onega Seoane

Once upon a time there was a territory called Europe which was in war. The worst weapons were released and many people were killed. When the war was finished, in 1945, that territory was in a social and institutional crisis. One day a few dreamers were talking about a utopia, where that territory had united and they could live in peace. They called



European Community of Coal and Steel in the first time (1950) and the first step was the creation of an economic and political union of its members: Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxemburg and the Netherlands. In 1957, it was signed the Rome treated and by that the CEE was constituted, also called "common market". In the 60's, the peace on the EU brought to this states made possible a big growth of economy, and also because the custom rights were eliminated. Furthermore, they all agree to make a set control of the food production, so they can all be feed. This idea let these countries had an agriculture excedent. In the 70's there was a very great change in the UE because of the first enlargement. On the 1st January, three countries: Denmark, Ireland and UK entered in the peaceful union, increasing the members to 9. Also, the UE starts to massive promoting and protecting the environment and introduces the concept "who contaminates, pays". In the 80's, Greece had introduced in the UE, being the 10th country. Five years after Spain and Portugal joined the project too.

In 1986 was signed the European Single Act that constitutes the bases of a 6 year programme designed to eliminate the obstacles of the free goods through the UE frontiers giving the origin to the "single market". When the communism fallen in the central Europe in the 90's was finished the creation of the "single market" based in four liberties: merchandises, services, people and capital. Also in 1993 and 1999 respectively were signed these two treats: Maastricht and Amsterdam. By the other side, in 1995 another three countries were introduced: Austria, Finland and Sweden. In addition, the Schengen treat was signed in 90's, being easier for europeans to travel around without passport.

Beginning of century, the Euro is implanted in most of European countries. The UE gets more implicated against delincuece because of terrorist attacks in the USA. In 2004 ten new countries were involved in the united system, following by Bulgaria and Rumania in 2007, being 27 members. Also, conflicts between East and West Europe were finished.

Furthermore, as a result of the financial crisis the UE decided to sign the Lisbon Treat, supporting better and more efficient ways to work. It was also ratified by all members before it was entered in force. In 2010 and because of the financial crisis was created the "banking union" to have a better and safer bank system. The last country which entered in the system was Croatia in 2013, being the 28th and last one.

Nowadays, the problems UE was trying to avoid in the past seemed to be rising again. One example is the religious extremism in Middle East and also another countries leaving people alone and running away searching for refugee. Also, the UE faces the problems to attend this refugees, but it not seems to be as united as it was before.

10 THINGS THAT WILL HELP YOU IF YOU ARE PLANNING AN EURO TRIP.

Lorena Loi

Euro trip planning is the start of a trip that you will never forget. The Old Continent will surprise you with his diversity, culture and history. But before to start you have to plan your journey and this short list of information may help you.

1 A good way to move from a city to another and from a country to another is by bus. There are a lot of companies that offer very cheap tickets. This is actually one of the cheapest way to move. In this way you can save money that you can use to have a dinner in a fancy restaurant.

2 Another way to save money during your trip is to sleep in hostels. There you can meet a lot of people from all over the world and pay a very cheap price for your stay.

3 Choose August, and the summer, in general only if you would like to go to the sea, otherwise choose spring and autumn. It's the best time to visit cities and attractions, it will not be hot and crowded like summer.

4 Before leave for the trip check your bank or credit card company website to make sure that you can find available ATM location near your destination, in this way you will not be forced to use others bank's machines.

5 Download apps that can help you to travel everywhere, like Google maps. But be careful, a little advice if you will go to Italy never take the Google Maps shortcut, you will probably be send to very bad-kept roads or you will be trap in a narrow and devious Street.

6 If you are a European Citizen you don't need to take out insurance. You just need to take with you your national health card.

7 You don't need passport or visa to go in all European Union countries. You can enter and exit just showing your ID card.

8 Another good thing that you have not to worry about is your cellphone plan because from may 2017 you can use your national plan even in the others EU countries without any extra cost.

9 Make sure you will not visit only popular spots in your trip. Try to hit up some overlooked areas where you can meet some locals and discover the diversity of cultures that make Europe unique.

10 Look if you need an adaptor in countries that you are planning to visit because current outlet can change.

Now let's plan you journey and discover Europe, good trip!

