



POLITISTIKO ERGASTIRI AYION OMOLOYITON



**NEWSLETTER – FEBRURARY
2020**





THE FIRST MONTH IN CYPRUS

One month of new experiences and new acquaintances in Cyprus. Located in Nicosia, the capital of this beautiful country, we have been able to discover the delicious food and the friendly and generous locals of this intercultural island.

Politistiko Ergastiri Ayion Omolyioton enabled us to have a good start in our volunteer project with an introduction week and a relaxing trip to the mountains. We had several team building training sessions to handle the living together of eight different personalities and to strengthen us as a group.

The first month we got to know our primary school where we work, and we met all the pupils. It is a very small and intercultural school with children from many different countries. They are all very kind and I felt immediately welcomed by the children.

Since my origins are from Bosnia (but born and raised in Austria) I noticed a lot of similarities to the Bosnian culture and also about the history of both countries and I am curious to learn more about this country and to discover it in many different aspects.

Aila Cavkic (Austria), Volunteer



OPEN CALLS

- ESC-PROJECT
Nature-Rush (Postponed
after May in Yialia,
Cyprus)
- ESC-PROJECT
Volunteer- Expertise
(Postponed after May
in Nicosia, Cyprus)



THE FIRST MONTH IN CYPRUS

My Name is Luca and at the moment I am volunteering in Cyprus until the 1st of July.

In this short article I would like to share my experience about my first month as a volunteer.

My main work here is to help out at a primary school during the week. For example, I am assisting some lessons and helping out the teachers in whatever they need to do. I am also thinking about taking on a bigger project, so I decided to take care of the botanic garden at the school.

I am going to clean it and plant a few new plants to make it more attractive. During the breaks I spend most of the time talking and playing with the children. I am really surprised that I can communicate with most of the children because they already speak English well. Of course there are also situations where there is not much to do, so I use this freetime to learn greek with a programme the headteacher gave us. I already have a good relation to some of the children and it feels like I pique their interests in international topics.

On the weekends, I use my time to travel around the beautiful island, either by myself or with other people from our apartment or with some guys I met here. I already fell in love with this island, the beaches are insane, especially because of the clear water. I already met new and interesting people here in Cyprus, locals, as well other Erasmus students. It feels like the time here helps me to broaden my mind and to be more open in general.

Luca Mertens (Belgium), Volunteer



WELCOMING NEW VOLUNTEERS: A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR ON-ARRIVAL TRAINING!



New year – new volunteers! During the first few days of February we had the pleasure of welcoming new volunteers to our organisation and our projects. Naturally, we were filled with anticipation, as I'm sure, so were they. In order to, firstly, get to know them and introduce them to our organisation and then, orientate them in their new social and working environment, we devoted three days for an on-arrival training. The first couple of days we invited the volunteers to watch the activities taking place at the cultural centre of our organisation, so they could get a peak of what they could be involved with: educational programme, dancing lessons, film seminars/screenings and others. We also arranged for them a tour in the old town of Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, including a walk around within the old city and a visit to the Archaeological Museum. We visited the town of Dali, as well, where one of the projects is taking place at another cultural centre of an organisation we're working with. Throughout most of the training, we organised and facilitated ice-breaking and team-building activities, in order to feel more comfortable with each other and with us, (the staff of the organisation), to get to know some basic information for each one and start building a spirit of team and/or friendship. By going through logistical aspects of the ESC programme and of each volunteer's project we hoped to answer some of their questions, give them details and a picture of what will or could happen during their volunteering service and also give them the chance to talk about things they wanted to discuss between them. Finally, we also arranged for more social outings, so they could also get to know the social scene of Cyprus, the cuisine, the culture and start exploring!

Eleonora Chrysanthi (Cyprus), Project Manager

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FIRST DAY TRIP IN TROODOS MOUNTAINS (CYPRUS) - 26/02/2020

Here we are! 10 volunteers from different countries of Europe for an ESC-Project, who are willing to put themselves in challenges and to explore Cyprus in all of his beauty! Our first day trip, all together up to the Mountains, was intense and in deep connection with the NATURE. We played with snow, did some team-building exercise, laughs and walked around the forest! A Great Day that will be engrave in our memory for LIFE!

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." (Cit. Mark Twain)

Maria Kusheela Maroni (Italy), Volunteer

