



POLITISTIKO ERGASTIRI AYION OMOLOYITON



ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙ
ΑΓΙΩΝ ΟΜΟΛΟΓΗΤΩΝ

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What exactly is World Wide Village for me?

My experience as volunteer for an ESC short-term project called *World Wide Village* in Pitsilia gave me the opportunity to meet local farmers and help them in exchange for accommodation and food. The work can be the picking of carobs, almonds, apples, raspberries or even strawberries... You may also take some of them with you to cook new and innovative receipts. In addition to the work, sharing time with locals, exchanging knowledge, or even playing Tavli with them are very nice and memorable experiences that get stuck in my mind!

Being part in this project gave me also the possibility to discover Cyprus by travelling with buses or by hitchhiking during the free time. One month is enough to briefly visit all the most important places of the southern part of Cyprus (Nicosia, Larnaca, Limassol, Ayia Napa, Blue Lagoon...). It will give you the will to come back in some places where sometimes, one or two days are not enough to entirely understand them. You can discover how diverse and different Cyprus is!

And last but not least, in this project I met young people from all around Europe, and shared my own point of view on the world (or just of common things) with them. Moreover, I shared lots of fun, deep, crazy and special moments which I will remember forever!

To reassume, the World Wide Village for me is the perfect way to discover Cyprus and learn a lot about the culture and habits of this small but various country. It is also a month full of solidarity, sharing and tolerance together with other people and this is probably the most fulfilling and interesting part of the project.

Francesco Petiot, (France), Unity - iOS: World Wide Village

Oisin Testimonial

Hi, I'm Oisin from Ireland and was recently fortunate enough to be able to take part in a World Wide Village project in Cyprus. This has been a great opportunity to get to know other young people from around Europe while also being able to do valuable and rewarding work in Cyprus with the locals.

Learning about Cypriot culture and the history here has been of a lot of interest to me, and being able to learn all about the cultures of the other volunteers has only made the experience more interesting.

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During this project we had a wide range of work, such as working in the vineyards and collecting carobs, almonds, leeks, and apples.

We also had enough free time to pursue our own interests in this time, being able to go on hikes through the mountains, relaxing at the beach, and travelling to the Cypriot cities.

This is a great option for anybody wanting to put themselves out of their comfort zone because everybody is so nice here that I promise you won't be uncomfortable for long. I would strongly recommend this project to anybody considering it.

Oisín Coe, (Ireland), Unity - iOS: World Wide Village

My Worldwide Village Experience Pitsilia Region 2020

Participating in this project meant far more to me than I could have expected. Travelling to a distant country, meeting new people, learning about and exercising traditional farming practices and exploring nature rich environments all while being exposed to new cultures and ways of life.

For me travelling to Cyprus and taking part in this project felt like an adventure, a learning experience and an expression of solidarity. Being located over three and a half thousand kilometers away from my home country of Ireland there were so many different and fascinating aspects of Cyprus to absorb. I felt that these were best appreciated in the rural Cypriot villages in which we were living and working. One thing which I loved about World Wide Village is the diversity which all the volunteers were able to bring along both from their own cultures and individual personalities. This allowed me more about the world based on the experiences of others and motivated me to begin planning more travels of my own to find new experiences. Many fun days and nights were shared hanging out, playing games (50 for the chicken!), hiking eating and more.

Another highlight of the project for me was experiencing the traditional farming practices (and the delicious Cypriot food which came of that!). Working on these farms to help harvest organically grown crops brought to me two important types of satisfaction: 1) Rediscovering nature tuned methods which have been forgotten by much of the modern world because of replacement by industrial factory farms 2) Helping support rural communities which are kept alive through the local small scale agriculture.

The natural environment of Cyprus is something which will stay with me long into the future. Throughout the project I felt I had a near constant connection to nature. This was when working on traditional farms so dependent on the climate and the soil, and spending much of my free time exploring the local mountains and bio-diverse forests. I see this project as being an adventure which will stick with me for a long time into the future.

The lessons I learned, the people I met and the experiences we shared are things which I would be foolish to forget.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible!



Dexter Hodkinson, (Ireland), Unity - iOS: World Wide Village

My project in Cyprus 2020

Wow where even to start?

Participating in this European Solidarity Corps project in October has been eye opening. I learned so much about things I never knew I could understand.

I understood the meaning of connection with other people – something that was long forgotten amidst the coronavirus pandemic. After more than half a year I was able to talk to a stranger, hug a new friend and cook all together with the fantastic people I met here in Cyprus.

This connection allowed me to learn so many lessons, and feel inspired for my future. Being 18, in a project with primarily 23 – 28-year olds, I got to learn a lot about what they had done in the past 5 – 10 years. The lessons I learned obviously included practical life lessons, like how to use a washing machine properly, but most importantly it taught me things such as good communication or the importance of trying your hardest even when no one is there to look. One thing that embodied solidarity was when a fellow participant had a real health problem. Eventually it was decided to bring him home, so with three other participants we drove to Paphos the town where he lived.

On the way there, his pain became unbearable so we decided to bring him to his hospital where he received treatment and a prescription for his medicine. We searched and searched for an open pharmacy but none were open so all together, we searched until we could find a solution. We ended up finding a night pharmacy, where he got his medicine. We reassured him that in a few days if he felt better, he could come back to the project but he wanted to be with the rest of the group so much more than be at home so he asked if he could maybe just be bed bound with the rest of the ESC group. We ended up having the best ride home, listening to music and everything had turned out in the best way possible. This is one of many examples where we had to work together, in order to achieve a common objective. I want to thank everyone in this project for making this experience something I will never forget and that helped me so much.

Peter Gee, (Belgium), Unity - iOS: World Wide Village

My World Wide Village in Cyprus

Hi! I am Stephanie from Larnaca, Cyprus. For a long time now, I have wanted to participate in a European Solidarity Corps (ESC) volunteering project. My initial intention was to apply for long-term ESC projects abroad but due to the uncertainty created by covid-19, I was hesitant to go abroad and decided to search for suitable opportunities in my home country, Cyprus. Discovering World Wide Village Project organised by Politistiko Ergastiri Agion Omologiton I decided to apply to this project as I found it an ideal opportunity to spend my time pleasantly, constructively and productively by giving back to the community in these difficult times. Once I was accepted, I embarked on an unforgettable one- month journey full of happy memories that was better than I would have ever expected.

I stayed in the villages of Lysos in Paphos and Ayios Ioannis in the region of Pitsillia, two villages which I have never visited before although living in Cyprus. Each village with its own distinct beauty and charm. I experienced first-hand the village life, hospitality, kindness and generosity of the people living there as well as the simplicity of life and the peaceful environment. From the moment I arrived in Lysos, we were warmly welcomed by a local who offered to drive and guide us around the nearby area of Latsi where we swam enjoying the breathtaking view of the surrounding mountains.

Working in the fields, harvesting a variety of crops and fruits such as almonds carobs, grapes, apples and berries, although sometimes tiring made me feel fulfilled and content. I managed to learn about the farming processes, appreciate even more what nature has to offer and of course enjoyed lots of fresh and delicious harvested crops and fruits. Waking up early on working days was never a problem as I had the remaining day to rest or participate in various activities after enjoying a delicious traditional lunch prepared for us by the field owners. Together with the other volunteers we organised and participated in different activities such as hiking and visiting nearby villages, tavli games, learned how different local products such as kolokotes (Cyprus pumpkin pies) and zivania (traditional Cypriot spirit) are made, cooked delicious dishes such as homemade pasta, pizzas, pumpkin soups, apple pies using fresh ingredients and many more. No day was ever the same!

Living and sharing for a month with people from different EU countries, we all got on well together despite our differences, shared our views and experiences and a lot of laughs and funny moments together. During this month, I also managed to relax and clear my mind and redefined my personal goals which I now feel more confident and motivated to achieve in the near future.

WWV project was my first ESC volunteering project and was definitely a rewarding and unforgettable experience which I would love to relive. It will for sure not be my last ESC project.

**Stephanie
Cleanthous,
(Cyprus), Unity -
iOS: World Wide
Village**

