



# POLITISTIKO ERGASTIRI AYION OMOLOGITON



## NEWSLETTER

### European Solidarity Corps - Traineeships & Jobs



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## **Title of the project: ESC Traineeships & Jobs: Managing Volunteering Projects (MVP)**

In 2019 I started working as a Project Manager at Politistiko Egrastiri Ayion Omoloyiton, an NGO in Nicosia, Cyprus. My work would mainly focus on the management, implementation and administration of European projects, usually under the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. It would also focus on youth work as I got to work with young volunteers from all over Europe, managing and supporting their participation in volunteering projects, as well as with many members of the local community. I was already aware of and in touch with European programmes, such as Erasmus+ and EVS/ESC, as I got to participate in youth exchanges, training courses and seminars, both in Cyprus and abroad, as well as be around and sometimes work with the different volunteers that the organisation was hosting for about the last 10 years. When I was 18 and I had the chance to offer my support in the organisation and implementation of a youth exchange in Cyprus, as a volunteer, since I could not be involved as a participant, I found the behind-the-scenes action of a European project very interesting. So, when in 2019 I was offered the opportunity to properly explore the field of European projects management and youth work, I was glad to take it on.

After completing one year as a Project Manager, during which the pandemic also took place and stalled or affected many of our plans and work, I had managed to learn many things but I knew that I could do more, learn more and develop more. Therefore, I was very glad that I had the opportunity to continue and further explore my role as Project Manager and the fields of project management and youth work, under the "Managing Volunteering Projects (MVP)" project of the European Solidarity Corps Traineeships & Jobs programme. It meant a lot that I could be a participant of a European programme, taking advantage of the opportunities it offers and at the same time, work to support the implementation of projects of this nature.

I could say a lot about the things I learned, the skills and competencies I gained. I could go on and on about my personal and professional development, which had a great impact on me, one that I am very grateful for. However, I will focus on the things that I got to do participating in this ESC Jobs project, that I feel very special and for which I am quite proud of: Meeting and working with young people from all over Europe, kind and interesting people who opened up and shared their experiences and offered different point of views. Watching the impact that their volunteering projects had on them, growing as people, falling in love with Cyprus and their projects and building friendships and bonds between them. Creating and enhancing a sense and attitude of solidarity. Cultivating a culture for solidarity and volunteering among young people from Cyprus and abroad. Involving the local community (individuals, local authorities, local schools) and inspiring them to participate in and implement volunteering activities. Raising awareness and informing the local community about the opportunities European programmes offer and observing the impact on them when they take advantage of them.

To conclude, I will share my gratitude for this project and all the experiences I have now because of it. I will also share a wish: that even more people, especially young people in Cyprus, learn about these opportunities that are waiting for them, offered to them freely and take them, to get out of their comfort zone, to travel, try new things, meet people and gain life-changing experiences.

By Eleonora Chrysanthi, "Managing Volunteering Projects (MVP)"

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