

## “Connect the Dots”

Contact Making Event with study visit elements on EVS

*Gyumri, Armenia*

*May 10 – 18, 2018*



## Practical Information

## 1. General Information about the TC

**Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO** from Armenia and **Kultur Aktiv e. V.** from Germany addresses the need to organize a 8-days contact making event with study visit elements for EVS support people, EVS Coordinators, Mentors/Tutors, which will enable networking amongst experienced and new organizations working with EVS by bringing new inputs and perspectives for setting up trustful partnerships, increasing the quality of EVS projects and sharing best practices and experiences.

European Voluntary Service is a type of mobility programme which plays a crucial role in shaping the further development and advancement of all direct and indirect partners involved in the project: Volunteer, SOHOs, target groups, mentors, communities therefore it requires to spare no efforts for working towards the improvement and increase of high quality of EVS projects, deepening trustful partnership, setting certain mechanisms for tracking quality in EVS projects and learning from various realities and practices. The contact making event also aims to improve the quality of the projects that has been realized by the project partners, but also to generate new project ideas and to develop joint solutions for different issues and problems. Thus, by participating in this event, participants will be able to strengthen the capacity of their organizations and to implement international projects with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

**Aim:** To foster cooperation between EVS Organizations aiming at increased quality and innovation in EVS through the exchange of good practices.

### **Objectives:**

**To establish** and deepen EVS partnership through experiential learning;

**To learn** various mechanisms to increase quality and innovation in EVS;

**To exchange** good practices in national and international contexts;

**To discover** EVS realities in Armenia through study visits.

The anticipated **impact** of the Contact Making Event is to foster quality improvements in youth work through enhanced cooperation between organizations in the youth field and other stakeholders.

### **Methodology:**

The Contact Making Event is based on the principles of non-formal learning and will furtherly contribute to the recognition of it. The experienced project team will guide the participants to establish partnership between EVS Organizations aiming at increased quality and innovation in EVS.

## Study Visit Element & Experiential Learning

The EVS Contact Making Event will be based on the following elements:

- Offering a meeting space for EVS accredited organizations to develop partnerships and afterwards to be able to submit good quality applications and effectively implement European Voluntary Service.
- Providing a learning context for sharing knowledge and experiences between organizations and representatives involved in youth work developing voluntary activities.
- Reflecting on the roles, responsibilities and challenges within the EVS volunteer support system.
- Raising awareness of the learning dimension in EVS and provide tools for learning support and personal development.
- Study Visits to local NGOs working with EVS Volunteers in Gyumri and Yerevan.

## 2. Profile of Participants:

The project will bring together 24 participants. Age limits: **18 +**

The participants should meet the following criteria/have the following criteria:

- Involved as an EVS support person, EVS coordinator, EVS Mentor/Tutor and have experience in youth work;
- Strong interest and motivation on the topic;
- Interest in reliable partnerships and new EVS projects;
- Will to increase quality and innovation in their EVS projects;
- Will to contribute to the project through sharing best practices
- Good level of English to follow the course and ability to participate fully in the event,
  - \* European volunteers under the EVS programme are NOT allowed to participate.

**! The participants are expected to participate fully in all activities. Unauthorized absence from activities and workshops will not be permitted and will result in cancellation of the travel reimbursements. We would really appreciate energetic and active participation!**

Country	Organization	Number of participants
ARMENIA	GYUMRI YOUTH INITIATIVE CENTRE	2
GERMANY	KULTUR AKTIV E.V.	2
ESTONIA	MITTETULUNDUSUHING CONTINUOUS ACTION	2
CZECH REPUBLIC	ZEMEKOULE, Z. S.	2
POLAND	STOWARZYSZENIE MOJE MARZENIA SPELNIJA SIE	2
GEORGIA	YOUTH ASSOCIATION DRONI	2
THE NETHERLANDS	STICHTING P60	2
MOLDOVA	INSTITUTUL DE INSTRUIRE IN DEZVOLTARE "MILLENIUM"	2
RUSSIA	CENTER OF VOLUNTARY MOVEMENT "LASTOCHKI"	2
ITALY	ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE JUMPIN	2
SPAIN	FUNDACIO CATALUNYA VOLUNTARIA	2
BELARUS	OFFICE FOR INITIATIVES PROMOTION	2

The selected participants should fill in the following [Participants Registration Form](#) till the 31st of March, 2018.

### 3. Project Team

**ARTUR NAJARYAN**



Project Manager

**Armenia**

**MARIAM GHARAGYOZIAN**



Project Coordinator

**Armenia**

**CHRISTIN FINGER**



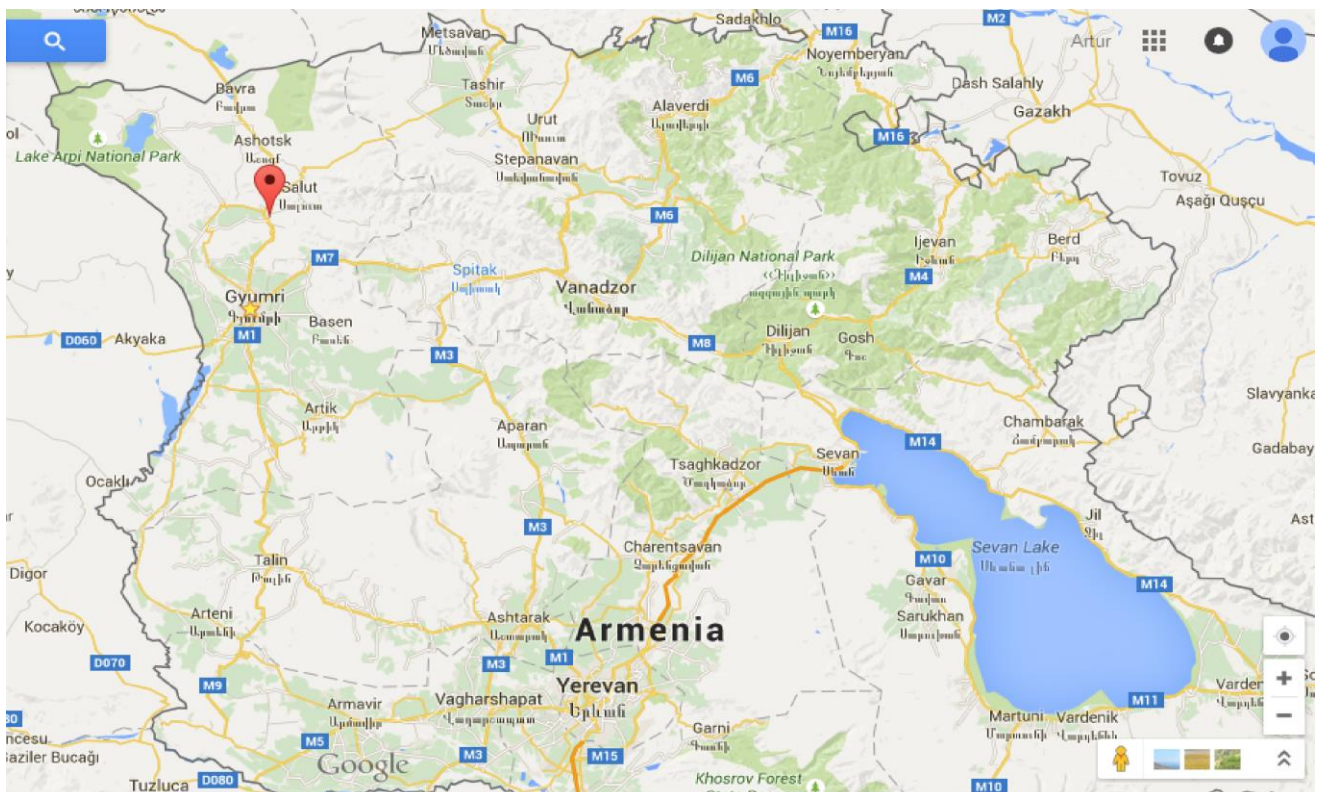
Project Coordinator

**Germany**



## 4. Venue & Accommodation

The CME will be held in Gyumri – the city where the hosting organization is based and which is the second city of Armenia. The hotel where the participants will stay is called “Garun”. The project venue is equipped with all the necessary facilities and conveniences. The participants will be accommodated in 3-beds and 4-beds rooms. Each room has private bathroom and toilets. Bed linens and towels are provided.



## 5. Travel:



As soon as you search for suitable flights, please contact us at [mariam.gharagyozyan@yic.am](mailto:mariam.gharagyozyan@yic.am) and [christin.finger@kulturaktiv.org](mailto:christin.finger@kulturaktiv.org) to consult on the dates and times of your travel. By getting a **GREEN LIGHT** from the organizers, you are requested to book your tickets.

The travel details should be provided through filling in the following [Google Form](#) in order to be able to arrange your meeting at the airport and transfer to the project venue.

### ARRIVAL

#### *Travelling to Yerevan*

You should organize your travel to **arrive** in the capital of Armenia on the **10th of May**. According to the travel details provided beforehand you will be picked up at “Zvartnots” International Airports, Yerevan (<http://www.aia-zvartnots.aero>), where one of the organizers with the sign of YIC will be waiting for you at the airport or you will be provided with detailed instructions how to get to Gyumri.

#### *Travelling to Georgia*

As soon as you arrive in Tbilisi or Kutaisi you take public transport (in case of Kutaisi-at first a bus to Tbilisi) and from Tbilisi airport you need to take a bus number 37 and get off on Rustaveli street from where a yellow mini-bus number 133 should be taken to **Ortachala bus station**. **From the bus station a mini-bus should be taken towards Gyumri, which departs once a day at 10:30**. You will be met at the Gyumri bus station by the organizers with the YIC sign.

**You are kindly asked to be in Gyumri on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May until 16:00 (4 p.m).**

*In case there will be too many people flying to Tbilisi we will arrange a mini-bus who will take you to the project venue right from the airport.*

## **DEPARTURE**

The participants will be taken to Yerevan or to Tbilisi /according to their flight/ by the organizers or will be provided with the detailed info how to get to the airport. In case you want to stay longer you need to agree that with the organizers in advance (extra days are not covered by the organizers), otherwise your travel costs will not be covered by the project.

In case of emergency or any travel changes, please call **Mariam + 374 77 47 73 82**.

**! Note:** The above mentioned information regarding your pickups, transfer to the project venue and drop offs is initial. It may be changed depending on the arrival place, time and number of participants. As soon as we have the final list of arrival days and times you will get more detailed and final information via e-mails.

## **6. Travel Reimbursement:**

Reimbursement of travel costs will ONLY be done upon full attendance in the project and presentation of the original tickets with boarding passes and receipt/invoices. **Unauthorized absence from activities and workshops will not be permitted and if happening, may result in the cancellation of travel costs' reimbursements and/or expulsion of the event.**

***Reimbursement for the travel costs for the countries coming outside of the European Union will be done during the project and for the EU countries will be done via bank transfer.***

**!! Note:** Bring original invoices and tickets, print out e-tickets and keep your boarding passes. Price, currency, name of passenger, date of purchase and travel should be clearly visible on all documents; otherwise we will be unable to reimburse the travel costs.

**!!! Note:** If you wish to travel on other dates as the project's dates (May 10 – 18), please ask for confirmation before booking the tickets (we accept travel 3 days before the event and 3 days after the event under the condition that no stop-overs are done on the travel).

**!!!! Note:** Reimbursement will be done in EUR, regardless of the currency indicated on the ticket and receipt/invoice. Any tickets purchased in a local currency other than EUR, will then be converted and calculated accordingly to the exchange rate of the month when the tickets were purchased, as stated in the official European Commission website at: <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro>.

**!!!! Note:** The costs of pickups and drop offs arranged by the organizers from and to the respective cities: Yerevan/Tbilisi will be included in the travel and deducted from the overall reimbursement of international travel.

Please see the country-specific travel budget limits given below per person, per country which is given according to Erasmus+ distance calculator: **EC Distance Calculator**

The costs of travel will be reimbursed %100 according to Erasmus+ travel framework maximum up to:

Country	Amount
ARMENIA	20 EUR
GERMANY	360 EUR
ESTONIA	360 EUR
CZECH REPUBLIC	360 EUR
POLAND	360 EUR
GEORGIA	180 EUR
THE NETHERLANDS	530 EUR
MOLDOVA	275 EUR
RUSSIA	275 EUR
ITALY	360 EUR
SPAIN	530 EUR
BELARUS	275 EUR

## 7. Visa:

The participants will not need visa to enter Armenia.

## 8. Participants' contribution

THE SELECTED PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE **25 EURO PARTICIPATION FEE EACH**. The participation fee should be paid by the participant during the project dates in Armenia to the hosting organization. The participation fee is the contribution of each participant to cover the very



small part of the project organizational expenses. The symbolic amount is the participant's contribution in the quality project.

## 9. Health Insurance

The insurance is the responsibility of the participants; please make sure you are covered with an insurance plan during your stay in Armenia!

## 10. Things to bring:



to share with the group.

Each national group should present shortly their country and culture during the intercultural evening. Additionally participants may present drinks and food from their country and region and any other items about their country (brochure, pictures, costumes, etc.) that they want



## 11. Communication:

### *Sim Cards/Mobile Phones:*

In case you need a Mobile/Sim card with Armenian number, please ask for it just after your Passport Control at the airport. There are 3 main operators in Armenia: Vivacell-MTS, U-Come and Beeline. In case you get a local Sim card you'd better choose Vivacell. 😊



### *Internet Access:*

There will be Wi-Fi in the whole hotel building.

## 12. Money:



The Armenian Currency is called **ARMENIAN DRAM**.

Banknotes: 1000 DRAM; 5000 DRAM; 10000 DRAM; 20000 DRAM; 50000 DRAM and 100000 DRAM.

As Coins DRAMS in low sum are being used, such as 10 DRAM, 20 DRAM, 50 DRAM, 100 DRAM, 200 & 500 DRAM.

If you want to see the specimens of banknotes and coins access the web site: <http://www.cba.am>

Approximate exchange rate is:

1 USD = app. 470 AMD

1 EUR = app. 530 AMD

In the shops US dollars and Euros are not taken. However there are many places you may exchange money in. The ATMs are widely spread. However the interest is taken for cashing if using ATM. In public transport and local shops, they take just cash.

## 13. Weather



In May the weather is warm. Sometimes evenings can be a little bit cold and windy. Have some warm jackets and clothes with you. It may also be rainy and cloudy, so jackets are a must!! For an accurate information on the weather, make sure you look up the weather in Gyumri [www.bbc.com/weather](http://www.bbc.com/weather).

## 14. Public Transport:



Public transports accept only cash in Armenia. The approximate cost of transportation:

Type	Cost
City bus or "marshutkas"	100 AMD
Taxi (in the city)	100-120 AMD per 1 km

## 15. Contact Information:

If you need help, have questions or need further information please contact:

*On behalf of the hosting organization YIC*

**ARTUR NAJARYAN**

**Mobile:** + 374 55858307

**E-mail:** [artur.najaryan@yic.am](mailto:artur.najaryan@yic.am)

**MARIAM GHARAGYOZYAN**

**Mobile:** + 374 77477382

**E-mail:** [mariam.gharagyozyan@yic.am](mailto:mariam.gharagyozyan@yic.am)

Regarding travel reimbursement details, please contact **CHRISTIN FINGER**

*(on behalf of the applicant organization Kultur Aktiv e.V.)*

**E-mail:** [christin.finger@kulturaktiv.org](mailto:christin.finger@kulturaktiv.org)

**Have a nice trip** 😊

**See you in**

