

# YOUTH TIME

**“Go abroad,  
go cultural”**

**Track your  
values?**

**EU for  
all**

**Human rights  
in EU**

**Plus:**

How to apply for EVS

## **Go Abroad, Go Cultural !**

*There are many opportunities waiting you abroad. The freedom of youth mobility is an opportunity that all EU youth can benefit. Do you know that you have access to projects funded by the EU? According to European Commission, Erasmus story during the academic year 2012-13, the 3 millionth student went abroad with Erasmus this year, and the number of mobile academic and administrative staff broke the 350 000 barrier. You can join Erasmus, Jean Monnet Scholarship Program, Leonardo da Vinci, EVS (European Volunteering Service), Comenius, youth projects and benefit from grants and funds.*

*Youth become more outgoing, open-minded and intercultural thanks to youth mobility. Youth have opportunities to travel, to be educated and to do internship in different countries. They get inspired to do new things and become entrepreneurs. You can gain new skills which you couldn't develop in your own country.*

*Young mobility is important for keeping peace and become more active citizens of EU. They free from prejudices and have the opportunity to explore their own realities. They make new friends all over Europe. Mobility projects decreases discrimination and conflicts as it enriches minds and changes mentalities.*

*Those who participate in youth projects have more job opportunities and intercultural mentality can increase capacity to disseminate knowledge of science, art and technology. In this way, you can change your life and we can have a future together.*

*All you need to do is to visit the web site of European Commission and the national agency*

*of your country for Erasmus, EVS and many other projects.*



### **Recent testimonies of successful business networking - Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme**

*Charlotte Angus an entrepreneur from Houghton-Le-Spring (UK) went to Naples last January and spent three months with entrepreneur Claudia Ciotola to broaden her skills learn about new markets as well as has given fresh perspective to the host company.*

*After taking voluntary redundancy Charlotte went to BIC (the North East Business and Innovation Centre) in May 2013 and by August had started her own business Mulberry Dragonfly which offers bespoke solutions to organisations to engage their teams and*

*unlock performance potential to implement small and large business change.*

*She discovered Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs through BIC and applied for the programme shortly after.*

*As part of her entrepreneurial experience Charlotte conducted research setting up other businesses in other countries providing reports*

*including recruitment contracts taxation and challenges and overall viability.*

*She also performed translations of documents and reviewed letters and contracts to show the structure was correctly in place.*

*The knowledge gained has enabled Charlotte to approach companies about potential project ideas.*

## **Human rights in EU**

***The European Union is founded on a strong engagement to promote and protect human rights, democracy and rule of law worldwide.***

*Human Rights are moral principles that describe certain standards of human conduct. They are understood as fundamental rights. Global and regional institution founded their laws on respect of Human Rights.*

*Many of the basic ideas that animated the Human Rights Movement developed in the aftermath of the Second World War and the atrocities of the Holocaust, culminating in the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Paris by the United Nations (ONU) in 1948.*

*The Human Rights are based on Peace, equality, democracy and freedom. The main human rights are right to life, freedom from torture, freedom from slavery, freedom of speech, freedom of thought, conscience, religion, freedom of movement. People have right to a fair trial, right to welfare and collective rights. Other important rights are freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity, right to water and minority rights.*

*The EU has accepted to respect the human rights with the European Convention on Human Rights in 1950. The European Union*

*sees human rights as universal and indivisible. It actively promotes and defends them both within its borders and when engaging in relations with non-EU countries.*

*Sustainable peace, development and prosperity cannot exist without respect for human rights. This commitment underpins all internal and external policies of the European Union.*

*Although EU has high level of democracy and promotes human rights, there are violations in immigration, freedom of speech and right to welfare and disabled people are disadvantaged in many EU countries. We asked youth their opinions on implementation of human right in EU; we collected answer from Italy, Croatia, Romania and Turkey.*

***-Alexandra, photographer from Romania***

*"When it comes about human rights, Romania is facing the problem of violating the right to be free from degrading treatment of one of its citizens. Romania is being condemned by the European Court because of its prison conditions. Actually, in the last decade, the damages paid by Romania for the*



mistreatment of detainees exceeded 600,000 euros. I was reading in the newspaper that in 2014, Aurel Radulescu complained to the European Court of Human Rights about detention conditions in the Jilava and Rahova prisons (Bucharest) - concerning prison overcrowding and lack of hygiene. We still need to work on this direction."

**-Loredana, student of economy from Italy**

"The immigrant centres are overcrowded and the immigrants live in extreme condition. So many illegal immigrants try to escape and cross the borders to enter in the neighbour countries but they are stopped by France and Switzerland. So they are obliged to remain in Italy without job and without future. The Government contributes to help these people

by giving money to NGO's , and asks from EU to form a common solution to help these people who escaped from war and poverty."



**-Derya, student of cultural studies and media from Turkey**

"The freedom of speech is violated in Turkey quite often. Turkey has a high number of arrested journalists for what they have written and said against the state. According to

Committee to Protect Journalists, 2013 prison census reveals that 211 journalists jailed worldwide and 40 people of it are Turkish journalists. People should be free in their expression and should not be judged for their ideas. I believe it is important to be open to other ideas contrasting to ours in order to have open-minded generations in the future and now. "

**-Luka, student of Law from Croatia**

"Recent acts of Croatian Government are violating human rights, they are using advantage of being in force to make new laws and bypass will of citizens cleverly using their position. They came in government by collecting majority with many small political

parties so neither they are elected by majority of people neither they are prolonging politic that citizens want.

Biggest violation of human rights was when

Croatian people on referendum with 65% decided not to change Constitution, they bypass it by changing the words of the sentence and content stayed the same and they change constitution. People in Croatia are bored of recent Serbian war and are not into strikes or public violence to overthrow the Government so now citizens are waiting for new elections that will be by the end of the year. At the moment Government is willing to

*change the law which will disable possibility of making referendums by making many new rules that will make difficult to collect signatures for referendum and here we can see direct violence of human rights.*

*Also European Commission and Transparency International commented this act as violence of human rights but nothing changed. Now majority of Croatian people are waiting for elections to elect new Government."*

*EU tries to find solutions for problems of human rights occurring within the EU. They have launched an action plan "Keeping human rights at the heart of the EU agenda" and EU adopts new EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2015 – 2019.*

***"Crises, poverty and many attempts worldwide to shrink the space of civil society require all our attention and efforts on human rights. We face every day the dramatic situation of people oppressed and forced to flee from conflicts, of women struggling to defend their dignity and their rights, of children reduced to slavery, of citizens who's basic rights are systematically ignored. The Action Plan we are launching today reinforces the EU's commitment to human rights, and focuses on empowering local actors and civil society organisations. All EU Member States stand united in taking it forward", said Federica Mogherini, High***

*Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the European Commission, on adoption of the Action Plan.*

*The new Action Plan aims to reinforce the implementation of the EU's human rights policy with a special emphasis on strengthening ownership by local institutions, mechanisms and civil society actors, and on invigorating support to Human Rights Defenders. The Action Plan outlines plans for collaboration between the EU and local institutions in partner countries, and for targeted support and capacity building on the ground. It reinforces the commitment to the mainstreaming of human rights into all the EU's activities and policies (including in development co-operation, migration/asylum, counterterrorism and trade/ investment) and to ensuring internal and external coherence and efficiency, as well as to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Specific actions are outlined under 5 subject areas: boosting ownership of local actors; addressing human rights challenges; ensuring a comprehensive human rights approach to conflicts and crises; fostering better coherence and consistency; and ensuring a more effective human rights and democracy support policy.*

EU values are founded on respect for human rights, human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and rule of law. EU youth believes in fundamentals. However, it is a going on discussion how much EU members are respectful to common values. The differences between member countries actually define the confidence towards EU. With the globalization, citizens' trust has gone through a change due to emerging problems and this determines the view of other countries in the world. We put the atlas of European Union values for youth to understand which country has more or less confidence in EU.

It is very interesting for youth to see that economically powerful members of EU such as Germany and England have less confidence in EU than Italy and Romania. It is thought that economically poor countries have more trust in EU; they believe that she can actually change

something in their life, economy and living conditions.

Values are interpreted differently by member countries and it is a plus. A Eurobarometer survey published on 17 December concluded that the majority of European citizens have a positive opinion of the European Union. The survey, carried out on a sample of 32,598 citizens of EU member states and candidate countries, found "an improvement in key political indicators". The number of respondents who say they have a positive image of the European Union (39%) and that they trust the European Union (37%) has risen over the last six months. Belgium, Bulgaria and Greece are the only member states where trust in the EU has dipped, while Spain (+14 points), Luxembourg (+18 points) and Slovakia (+14 points) have seen the highest gains. Therefore, it is our duty and belongs to us to make a difference because Europe is our common home.

