

Youth Included and Evergreen

Report on 2017 EU-China NGO Twinning Program

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Brief description of exchange purpose/projects.. (max 100 words)

The bilateral exchange took place in Prague and Beijing respectively between June and October 2017. Among the main aims was to create closer bonds between Evergreen, Beijing, and Youth Included, Prague, in the field of social inclusion, migrant integration, work with community, and volunteering management. The project was enriching and fruitful for fellows involved and organizations hosting fellows during the exchange period. During our exchange project we shared our good and bad practices, organized study visits to stakeholders in migrant/social inclusion in Beijing and Prague, participated in activities of each other, conducted trainings of staff in Beijing (community management, volunteering management), prepared follow-up projects between our organizations.

Ekaterina Kokkalou, Youth Included, Prague, Czech Republic

02.10.2017-30.10.2017 Beijing, China

Introduction (Objectives, expectations)

The main objective of this project was to enable exchange of practices in the field of social inclusion, migrant integration, work with community, and volunteering management. Possibility to be the part of the organization for 4 weeks, being involved in community activities and being able to share knowledge and organize training of Evergreen staff, was great for my personal and professional development.

Activities

(Which activities did the exchange fellow participate in?)

Among the main activities I was engaged during my stay in China was getting to know network of community centers by Evergreen, partner organizations of Evergreen.

During the first week I had a possibility to explore Beijing in the company of staff and volunteers of Evergreen, to see rural China and check the real life conditions of people living in suburbs of Beijing. This week was amazing experience to be prepared for Chinese mentality and get acquainted with the way how Chinese people react to different situations, work and live. Moreover, I was working in collaboration with Esti to People on follow-up project on eco-education, which will involve Youth Included, Evergreen, Esti to People and Participant Report EU-China Twinning Program 2017

This project is supported by

Green Innovation Hub at the end of August 2018.

During the next 3 weeks I was intensively on a daily basis involved in the work of community centers from Evegreen:

- Study visits to community centers;
- Study visit to Community Garden in the suburbs;
- Volunteering management sessions with volunteering team of middle school students in one of the community centers;
- Participation in eco-education activities for kids and family;
- Study visit to migrant school;
- Study visit to deprived neighborhood and getting to know local families;
- Preparation and delivering of volunteer management session for Ecology Network of Volunteers Conference;
- Preparation and delivering of volunteer management session for staff of Evegreen (volunteer coordinators, community center managers);
- Preparation and delivering of management of community center for staff of Evegreen (community center managers and project coordinators);
- Work on follow-up projects

Outcome and Impact

(What were the concrete results and accomplishments of the exchange?)

Among the main outcomes is gaining trust of our Chinese partner, and enabling continuous cooperation on long-term projects in the field of migrant inclusion and community work. For Youth Included I brought back abundance of eco-education activities, good practice of establishing community center in migrant neighborhood. I was glad to share my own experiences in the field of community and volunteer management, and to be useful to my hosting organization.







Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

(Please describe the joint follow-up project if one has been planned and reflect on the sustainability of the collaboration.)

We have prepared several follow-up projects with Evergreen, as during the stay we found much more in common than we saw when meeting in other countries and not being able to see what we do on the spot.

1. Eco-education. Sharing of good practices for social inclusion

The idea is to unite youth and community organizations from Europe, Russia and China to share their good practices in eco-education, and enrich our common knowledge. Meeting is planned to be financed by Erasmus+ within youth workers mobility.

2. Study visit of Chinese delegation to Refufest 2018 intercultural festival

When applying for Exchange our idea was to involve our Chinese fellow for preparation and delivering of intercultural festival Refufest, which Youth Included has been involved in from 2014. However, due to moving of the period to June it was not possible to make it. After presentation of this good practice of social inclusion, we have decided to create a follow-up project for our Chinese partners to see the festival, make them to participate in the preparation of the event, and organize for them festival management training.

3. Study visit to the Czech Republic to explore the possibility of cooperation on nature schools concept

Evergreen has already nature school working quite well, where kids with families go to find the bond with the nature. We would like to organize visit of Chinese delegation to check with us some places, preselected for the same concept and share their experience in nature school management.

4. Participation in the conference on Migrant Intergation in China

During the stay and after delivering the training I was invited to take part in the conference on migrant inclusion in 2018 as an international guest speaker, presenting our work in Prague, Czech Republic.

Hangyu Xu, Evergreen Center for Sustainable Development, Beijing, China

09.06.2017-10.07.2017 Prague, Czech Republic

Introduction (Objectives, expectations)

Our main aims were to find commons on migrant issues in both cities, and engaging more youth, families to take part in our projects, either give us financial support or volunteer in our activities; and help the migrants to have a better adaption and integration to local life.

Activities

(Which activities did the exchange fellow participate in?)

During my 4 weeks in Prague I had a pleasure to participate in the following activities of Youth Included:

- Fund raising for “Czech Friendly” Food Map project;
- (Prague Muzeum Night and mini Refufest 2017, Reggae festival)
- Research and interviews for “Czech Friendly” Food map project;
- Study visits to partner organizations, working on migrant inclusion, ecological education and community development;
- Participation in the activities of the community center Inbaze, partner organization of Youth Included (kids activities, outdoor camp during summer for migrant kids);
- Participation in the activities of the Center for Intergtion of Foreigners, partner organization of Youth Included (volunteer activities);
- Participation in the workcamp on community gardening for disabled people in Brno, Czech Republic;
- Study visit to nature school Toulcuv Dvur;
- Workshop in Hamburg and visiting C20 Conference.

Moreover, during the stay in the Czech Republic I had an experience to explore culture and traditions of the region, to visit national parks and some cities of the Czech Republic.





Outcome and Impact

(What were the concrete results and accomplishments of the exchange?)

We exchanged different methods working on migrant issues, and I've learned many different activities for migrant children. I think our community center learned both the operation mode of the centers in Prague, and the volunteer management of Youth Included.

In Beijing, our community center can hold an activity with maximum 20-40 people at one time, the experience of Intangible Cultural Heritage Skills is most popular. Due to the language barrier, I didn't manage to practice our eco-education activities to migrant children in Prague. But I learned about volunteer engagement and management. In the future, we're planning to cooperate with my partner Kate to improve our volunteer management system, and upgrade our community center management system. Eventually a guidebook of how to manage a community center is our final expectation.