

My EVS experience

Hi, I'm Mayra I'm from Italy and I arrived in Razlog on 28 August for my EVS project. I had always traveled, but It was my first experience abroad. Razlog is a little city, at the beginning for me was very strange because I come from a big city. Despite this, Razlog immediately caught my attention thought beautiful mountain landscape.



The accommodation, partly, was comfortable, despite a little kitchen to be shared with all other volunteers and a old washing machine, that often was broken. I shared the room with another Italian girl and in this way I felt a bit at home. My flat mates were from different country: Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal and France. Some of them went away and other people, instead, arrived during my EVS, but, I established with each of them a wonderful friendship. It was nice to listen to different

languages and to know different cultures from me.



Together we have lived many experience for example we visited Pirin mountain and Rila seven lakes.



I didn't speak English very well and at the beginning was very hard to communicate, but the other

volunteers have supported and helped me to improve it.

A few days after I got here, I with the other volunteers went to Sofia to participate "On arrival" training. It was a nice experience to meet people from other country and to interchange different experiences and points of view and to have fun. There I met a Slovak girl, she was my roommate, she can't speak English well and in this way we immediately felt connected. During the day all volunteers participate at training but during the night, together, we went out to drink something and we spoke a lot. In October we started the activities at the schools. Every two weeks we changed the couples because in this way everyone could work with everyone. The activities that we proposed were the combination our ideas. We tried to create fun activities but at the same time these could help children to learn new things. We used to make activities with art, literature, creation and music. It was very nice to work with the kids and see them laugh and have fun together. The most beautiful activity, according me, was to create a personal puppet, in this way the kids could improve their creativity and we helped them to exercise motricity.



We worked in Razlog and nearby too (Banya, Gornodraglishte, Dobarsko). So we had the possibility to see characteristic places. Two times per week, we went to Moga (rehabilitation center). There we spent time to help disabled to create artistic things and, sometimes, we helped them with motricity, creating games.

At the end of September and throughout the month of October, I started my personal project with volleyball teams. At the beginning, my role was as an observer but then I sometimes had opportunities to propose exercises. These exercises are meant to improve technique, balance, rapidity and concentration, but at the same time, to have fun. We had the opportunity to get in touch with a different culture. The coach doesn't speak English, so, for this reason, it was very difficult for me to communicate with him. However, the girls usually helped me with communication. In November changed the situation, in fact I went to there like a observer again and the training was always too much later and for these reasons I decided to finish my personal project.



I passed my Christmas time with my family at home. After four months was important for me stay in my country, to speak Italian and to eat Italian food. I'm very attached to my origins.

The last month was sad, because the Portugal guys finished their project. We created a beautiful friendship and together we had fun. For them was organized a party in a typical Bulgarian restaurant. We danced, ate and had fun.

A traumatic event characterized the month of January: my grandmother's death and I spent a week with my family. It was hard for me because I was very attached to my grandmother, she was like a second mother.

EVS is a fantastic experience, I want to advice it to everyone. It gives you the chance to get in touch with other cultures, it gives the chance to meet new friends.