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TIME TO MOVE

2025

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What is Time to Move?

by Pavla Faltová

Every October, thousands of young people across Europe take part in Time to Move, a campaign that opens the door to international experiences. Be it studying abroad, volunteering, working, or interning in another country. Coordinated by Eurodesk, the campaign helps young Europeans discover practical ways to gain new skills, meet people from different cultures, and shape their own future in an increasingly connected continent.

Time to Move is a series of events, activities, and online actions organized throughout Europe to inform young people about international mobility opportunities. These include EU-funded programmes like Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, and other cross-border projects. Through local workshops, info sessions, quizzes, exhibitions, and online campaigns, youth organizations and information centres help participants find trusted information and personal guidance tailored to their goals.

The first Time to Move campaign was launched by Eurodesk in 2014. Its goal is simple. To make young Europeans aware of the countless learning and mobility options supported by the European Union.



Over the years, the campaign has grown into a continent-wide initiative with hundreds of local partners in over 35 countries organizing thousands of events each year. Just during this October young people all over Europe had a chance to visit 1.372 different events in their countries.

In a world where borders are easy to cross but opportunities aren't always visible, Time to Move bridges that gap. Many young people are unaware that the EU funds programmes allowing them to study in another country, join a volunteering project, or gain international work experience, often fully covered financially.

Each year, the campaign also includes the Time to Move Design Competition, where young artists can express what Europe and mobility mean to them through digital art, comics, or illustrations. The contest attracts creative minds from all over Europe and gives them a platform to be recognized internationally.

As Time to Move continues to evolve, its message remains the same: there's always an opportunity waiting for you somewhere in Europe.

First step toward new experiences often begins with simply asking, "What's possible for me?"



Opportunities waiting for you

Ever thought about studying in another country, volunteering for a cause you care about, or just taking off to explore Europe by train? The European Union actually wants you to do that too. Now, even if you missed the events this October, don't worry. Here is a rundown of some of the programmes you can be part of.



Erasmus+

If you ask anyone who's been on an Erasmus exchange, they'll probably tell you it was one of the best decisions of their life. Erasmus+ is the EU's flagship programme for education, training, youth, and sport, and it has transformed what it means to be a student or young professional in Europe.

Grants help cover travel and living costs, so finances aren't a major obstacle. Universities, vocational schools, and youth organisations across Europe all participate, creating a huge network of possibilities.



Erasmus+ isn't just about studying at another university (though that's still its most famous part).

The programme supports:

- **Student exchanges:** Spend a semester or full academic year abroad at a partner institution.
- **Internships and traineeships:** Gain work experience in another country as part of your studies.
- **Youth exchanges:** Take part in short-term international projects focused on creativity, teamwork, or social issues.
- **Training courses** for youth workers and educators.

European Solidarity Corps

While Erasmus+ is about learning, the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) is about doing. It's the EU's way of supporting young people who want to roll up their sleeves and help communities in need, at home or abroad.

The ESC funds volunteering projects and solidarity activities for young people aged 18–30. These can last anywhere from a few weeks to a full year.





There's also a professional side to the ESC: traineeships and jobs with NGOs or public institutions that share its values. All travel, accommodation, and basic living costs are covered, along with insurance and pocket money. It's designed so that anyone, regardless of income or background, can participate.

The European Solidarity Corps isn't just volunteering for the sake of it. It's about building empathy, understanding Europe's social challenges, and learning by doing. You grow as a person while giving back to others. You don't need to be an expert or have a perfect plan. You just need motivation, curiosity, and a willingness to step into the unknown.

DiscoverEU

If Erasmus+ is about learning and ESC about solidarity, DiscoverEU is pure discovery.

This EU initiative gives 18-year-olds a chance to travel across Europe by train for free. Participants receive an Interrail pass that lets them explore up to 30 European countries, usually for up to 30 days.

It started in 2018 as a simple idea: every young European should get to know their continent first-hand. Today, more than 390.000 young people have traveled with DiscoverEU.



Twice a year, the European Commission opens an application round. You apply online, answer a short quiz about Europe, and if selected, you get a rail pass that covers most of your travel. You can go solo or form a small group with friends.

You plan your route, budget, and accommodation. Some choose a tour of capitals. Others go off the beaten track, exploring nature, small towns, and hidden gems.

DiscoverEU isn't just a free trip. It's an invitation to grow up a little. To travel responsibly, to meet people from across the continent, and to understand how diverse yet connected Europe is. Many travellers say the journey gave them new confidence and a sense of belonging.

Recently, the programme has also focused on inclusion, helping young people with fewer opportunities take part through extra support and guidance. It's about making exploration something everyone can access.

How to Get Started

If any of these sound like something for you, the first stop is Eurodesk. Their network of youth information centres across Europe helps young people find, apply for, and prepare for these programmes.



If you are in Zabok, it's very easy. Just visit us at Mreža udruga Zagor. We are an Eurodesk multiplier, meaning we are able to help you with any questions you might have, with looking for an opportunity for you and with applying.

Mreža udruga Zagor
Ulica mladih 2, 49210 Zabok

<https://www.zagor.info>

For more information about programmes visit these websites:

Eramus+ : **<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/hr>**

ESC & DiscoverEU: **https://youth.europa.eu/home_hr**

Eurodesk
Opportunities: **<https://programmes.eurodesk.eu>**





Time to Move in Zabok

For us the month was busy with various Time to Move activities. If you follow us on social media and our website, you might have noticed our posts. The goal was to introduce all of the many different aspects of the campaign. You could discover the Time to Move podcast, art competition, media challenge, interactive escape game and especially the events. Hopefully even if you couldn't attend, the media campaign still caught your eye and inspired you to participate.

If you are a student at Škola za umjetnost, dizajn, grafiku i odjeću Zabok you could have met us twice this month. First we had the opportunity to present to not only students but also their parents during an Erasmus+ days event. They had a chance to hear about the program not only in theory, but also from the experience of me, as a previous Erasmus+ participant and current ESC volunteer.



Right next day we met in our space for the next event. The student participants searched for and scanned QR codes and solved tasks related to youth opportunities, while also learning about Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, DiscoverEU, and other possibilities.

While completing the tasks, they also tackled special challenges, which they later presented to the other participants. Many of them have just turned 18, and the challenges encouraged them to think about the steps and opportunities they can take advantage of. Most of them planned their routes and participation in DiscoverEU.

Our third event was in a partnership with Srednja škola Zabok. We held an Art Colony event that combined creativity, entrepreneurship and education about European opportunities. The participants prepared their own innovative ideas for travel in Europe in an art form. Together they created a train of ideas, both possible and impossible. The final designs will be on exhibited in school for all the students to see.

This month, while eventful, is just a part of our all-year round activities that help young people discover their region, country and whole of Europe. If you didn't get a chance yet, I highly recommend to come and meet us. Let's find the opportunity for you!





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