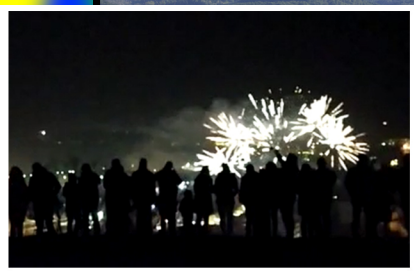


E.V.S

European Voluntary Service

By Alex Rea & Jorge Sanchez



MREŽA
UDRUGA
ZAGOR



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Introduction

Hi, I'm Jorge, I am 25 years old, and I live in Spain. I decided to apply for this opportunity offered by Zagor because it looked different from the rest. They do a lot of activities with other Organizations that work for young people, and the other projects that I saw were focused only on one or two different activities.



Hi, my name is Alex, I am 29 years old and from England. I came to Croatia to volunteer with Zagor as the project really interested me. I enjoy working on videos and the brief for the project was perfect as it would allow me to be creative while also experiencing a different culture from what I am accustomed to.

About E.V.S

EVS is an international volunteer program funded by the European Commission, for people between 18 to 30 years old.

The volunteering can last from 2 weeks to 12 months, in an organization based in Europe, with some exceptions outside of the EU.

Every volunteer receives money to cover travel and living costs, as well as health insurance, and a course for language learning.

If you want to do a volunteering, you need to find a sending, and a hosting organization and volunteers are also assigned a personal mentor for the duration of the EVS. Both organizations give support during the whole project. Also the volunteer can attend to trainings offered by the National Agency of the country of the project.

E.V.S Story Jorge

Croatia has been an amazing place to live during these weeks. The most surprising thing for me was not only the high-level English spoken by the people in a small place like Zabok. If you were to go to Spain the situation would be to the contrary :). I have found that their level of Spanish is incredible, and it is even funnier that they have watched so many "Tele-novelas". I definitely didn't expect this before I came here.

Since the beginning, the team at Zagor have been very nice and tried to make me feel comfortable, they have insisted that I eat every day, just like my grandmother always did in Spain, so I'm thankful for that.

I was here during the Christmas period, so I could discover the Croatian traditions for this time of the year. I was invited to the family's house of one of my colleagues at the office to have lunch and to the flat of the same colleague for New Year's Eve celebration. The food and drink were great, and the view of the fireworks that night was awesome.

I have arranged to teach Spanish while I am here, and I will always remember how many people applied to take part and how I have prepared for them. All of these things have made me really love this beautiful country even more. Regarding to the activities that I personally prepared, I organized the Spanish nonformal lessons (with games, songs, movies) for the young people living in Zabok and for the Spanish students on one high school.

During the first month, I could speak in a workshop about volunteering with other young people. I talked with them about my past experience in EVS, and I recommended them to try it in future. I had the opportunity to go to high schools to participate in "Bez promila" activities, to prevent the young people from drink alcohol before they drive.

Besides, I took part in the On-Arrival Training organized in Orahovica, that was a nice experience to meet other volunteers that are doing EVS in Croatia. It was useful because I learned how to solve conflicts, how to work on teams, and how to deal with typical problems that volunteers have during this experience.

E.V.S Story Alex

In the ten months that I have been in Zabok, Croatia, I have been given great opportunities to travel in and outside of the area, see places and things that I would otherwise have not known existed and met some wonderful people who are always interesting, kind and full of life.

The people who work at Zagor do some amazing work for the youth of not only the local area but also people like myself to experience something unlike anything else. They put in a lot of work to ensure that I am comfortable and take us on excursions to explore areas within Croatia. I have been lucky to have a mentor who is interested in their country and has involved me in many adventures and social experiences. The staff also make sure to create fun opportunities for the volunteers and to make us feel welcome. I am so happy I have had the opportunity to work with such wonderful and passionate people.

For me one of the most memorable experiences that I have had, is that I was able to work with the team on a project called Uzmi Pare. The idea of the project was to get young people, across 3 different towns, interested in democracy by giving the opportunity to present ideas for an activity that the local youth would vote for and they would then implement. I was able to see this process through from beginning to end and was able to produce a video that showed the whole process. When the action was completed I attended a conference where they spoke about the activity and showed the video to a large group of people. To me it was amazing being part of something so important to youth here.

I have been given creative freedom to work on many different videos for the organisation and this has really helped me to develop my skills in this field. The most important aspect of this work for me has certainly been working with my camera and that is exactly what I have been able to do. I will forever be thankful for this experience which now holds a special place in my heart!