



*Title of the project: “BRIDGES OF PEACE”*

**Short description of hosting organisation:**

“United Societies of Balkans - U.S.B.” is a Non Governmental Organization, founded in Thessaloniki in 2008, by a team of active young people, socially sensitized, and with rich experience of voluntary programs. Their vision was the promotion of youth mobility, youth active participation, volunteerism and youth further sensitizing about social issues.

**Main objectives of the organization are:**

- Put an end to prejudices and stereotypes among Balkan countries.
- Determine and enhance the unique cultural elements of our societies.
- To build bridges of healthy cooperation between the countries of the Balkans and Eastern Europe with the rest of Europe.
- To become involved in activities with minorities and immigrants.
- Promote human rights, solidarity and respect for diversity.
- To promote the values of non-formal learning, volunteering, active citizenship and democracy to create a better future for the European youth.





### Short description of evs project:

The BRIDGES OF PEACE will support the media project 'Balkan Hot Spot' which deals with the service of volunteers coming from member-countries of the EVS Programme. This is a project which is already running in the office of our organisation for the last 7 years and consists 3 main tasks:



1. A place where one can find material on Balkan countries, such as books written by Balkan and east-European writers, historic and photo albums as well as brochures from Balkan cities . The library has over 2300 books, covering different topics and interests. There are thematic seminars by the title “Balkanizater” where the culture of Balkan countries is presented.
2. Web Media. E-radio, E-magazine (“Balkan Beats») and an E-television, with the main contribution of our volunteers. ([www.balkanhotspot.gr](http://www.balkanhotspot.gr)) Through the e-radio and the e-journal, the volunteers ,in cooperation with the youth of the local society and of the other volunteers of our organisation, will have the opportunity to create a space of free expression and communication of young people, always within the context of the subjects, the principles and the goals of the Programme “Erasmus Plus”. More details can be found at [www.usbngo.gr](http://www.usbngo.gr) , [www.balkanhotspot.gr](http://www.balkanhotspot.gr) and <http://issuu.com/search?q=balkan+beats>
3. Personal project. With the support of an experienced mentor, there is a concrete personal development plan, through of which each volunteer is building their work and life plan, concerning their EVS activity and their personal attitude.

The recruitment of the participants is based on the motivation of the volunteer.

There are no prerequisites such as prior knowledge of programmes or media, as we will provide educational seminars around these topics. Although, good knowledge of English for the safety of the volunteers is the only important factor, it should not be an obstacle if there is a very strong interest to join the project.





## Role of the volunteer:

The activities in which the volunteer will get involved are:

- Organisation and development of an e-radio with emphasis on youth social issues of the Balkans.
- Organisation and development of web-tv.
- Create documentaries emphasised on social issues and cultural activities of Thessaloniki.
- Help with the technicalities needed for the e-radio to be operative.
- Maintenance of the e-radio through the creation of a playlist based on songs from the whole of Balkan countries, which will be broadcasted on daily basis.
- Organise a team of volunteers which will run the live programme of the e-radio.
- Help the local volunteers and participate themselves in the recording of the programmes to be broadcasted in the scheduled hours.
- Organisation, development and maintenance of an e-journal. The volunteer will be assisted by experienced members of the Hosting Organisation and will be provided with the necessary technical tools on which they would have been trained on beforehand.
- Find topics covering issues that interest young people and that can lead to a discussion among them through online conversations or articles that will be uploaded in the e-journal.
- Find projects that could promote the activity and disseminate its results.
- Participate in approved programmes, so that they will develop more skills and capacities.
- Participation in special events and meetings organised by the Project: The volunteer might take part in some events that will be organised by the Project on special dates dedicated in EU or Human Rights. These events always have a huge turnout and offer the chance to strongly promote the work done by the Project. The volunteer will play a central role by adding a European dimension to these public events and motivating the local youth to participate. Using their creativity, their knowledge from their country and their visions they can find attractive and effective ways to help with relevant games, presentations, leaflets etc.







- Participation in some public events organized by the local authorities. During these events the volunteer will have the opportunity to be with the locals, socialise, practice the language, and get a good taste of the” Greek spirit”



### Provided services:

There are three 3-day seminars on Media. The seminars are organised by the organisation with the support of professionals on video shooting, editing, web radio, journalism etc. Between the seminars there is a 15-day practise with needed goals to achieve in order to process to the next one.



## Hosting conditions:

The volunteers are living in two apartments of 155 m<sup>2</sup> in close distance of about 200 meters from the office, on the top of the hill of Thessaloniki, next to the forest. They are sharing their rooms and their apartments with other volunteers combined they have 2 bathrooms, 2 kitchens and 2 living rooms. The neighborhood is very friendly and helpful. Nearby there is the pharmacy, 2 super markets, a 24/7 kiosk for the necessary goods and the bus stop.

The apartments are fully equipped with furniture, air-conditions and independent heating system. There is also internet connection to both of them and telephone line. Every 20 days a cleaning lady will visit the house to make sure the conditions of living are always at a high level. Moreover, the coordinator will visit the house each week in order to check the needs and the problems of it

## Budget policy:

The participants take 140 euros at the beginning of each month and their pocket money (100 euro) at the last week of every month. By this policy it is guaranteed that they will not spend all of their money the very first days of the month. They are not getting extra money for their transportation. For their Greek courses, a class has been formed just for them with the cooperation of the municipality of Sikies and they are taking a combined 6-hour per week class. From the Erasmus plus and the extra money they get, an extra cycle of courses will be organised apart from those from the municipality.

## Insurance

The participants have private insurance by MSH INTERNATIONAL, which covers all their needs for the whole duration of their project and even after that (for a few months). We already have created a network of doctors and hospitals for all their needs, so we can immediately serve their needs, even the most





emergent.

### Daily work:

The volunteers are divided in two teams, working on shifts, rotating between a morning (09:00 – 13:00) and an afternoon (14:00 – 18:00) one. Every Friday there is a meeting with the coordinator and the mentor, to check the working plan of the previous week and schedule the working plan of next week.

### Day off:

The participants have 20 working days free, apart from the national and religion official holidays of Greece. If they work hard on their tasks, the mentor and the coordinator may give them more days off, as a reward.





## Cooperation between Sending and Hosting organization:

It is very important, for the achievement of a quality outcome of the project, a very close cooperation to be present between the sending and the hosting organisation. The sending organisation has to communicate once per month with the volunteers and keep a report of their educational process, their daily life and other issues. The Sending has to share with the Hosting points of their discussion, something that also the Hosting should do with the Sending.

