
Involving the European Solidarity Corps (European volunteers) into the (extra-) curricular activities in the Republic of Slovenia, EU.

Abstract

The Slovenians, as a relatively small nation in Europe, are very much interested in the diverse possibilities the European Union can offer through its different projects. There are also several EU financed projects in the field of education. Responsible teachers and motivated students are interested in some of these projects as they present a great opportunity for the young students to develop their European perspective.

The primary school educators and students in Trbovlje, an ex-mining town in Slovenija, are eager to participate in some European projects in order to gain additional communicative, social, cultural and other competencies. The European Solidary Corps, as an EU project, involves young people from different European countries to spend some time abroad, broaden their horizons, grow personally and professionally and at the same time promote their own languages and cultures.

The primary school where I have been teaching is part of ESC project for years. By hosting these young volunteers at school, the school students, aged 6 to 15, get unique opportunity to meet foreigners, practice different languages, get familiar with basic cultural similarities and differences.

As there are European volunteers at some other local institutions too, hosting them at school is a great opportunity to join another European initiative, namely The European Day of Languages. Many European volunteers from different countries come to school and are involved into various activities.

The world is getting smaller, the opportunities and necessities to speak more than mother tongue are immense. Therefore, the primary school's objective is to offer the students the possibility to get familiar with as many languages, cultures, peoples as possible.

Using different methods of teaching, involving the European volunteers into the (extra-) curricular activities in the Republic of Slovenia, the young are able to become peaceful, broadminded and tolerant inhabitants of the multilingual world.

Keywords: European Solidarity Corps, European Day of Languages, volunteers, primary school children, multilingualism