

How EVS volunteers changed a local community

EUROPEAN
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

20
YEARS!

EVS and community work

“The happiness of providing support to young people and watching them grow are moments no money can buy.

Iva Markulj, Association IKS

The work of EVS volunteers isn't just benefiting those they help directly – it's helping to change attitudes in local communities and beyond.

Whether through regional or local municipalities, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives or other non-profit projects, EVS volunteers can support your community work. Petrinja in Croatia is home to a great example of an organisation that has made the most of EVS to positively impact the local community.

Founded in 2003, Association IKS in Petrinja started hosting EVS just 5 years ago. Since then 48 EVS volunteers have worked on eleven projects. They have worked on countless activities to promote social inclusion within the local community, promoting active citizenship, empowering women, youth and other citizens at risk of social exclusion.

The work done by EVS volunteers helps to breathe new life into the community spirit in Petrinja. Volunteers have worked on activities for the promotion of EU citizenship values, civic education and tolerance. Promotional activities such as street art, comic strips and interviews on local radio stations help get their activities, and the benefits of the EVS projects to communities noticed.

The types of programmes and activities organised by the EVS volunteers were completely new to Petrinja. Thanks to the young visitors, the involvement of young people in volunteering is increasing every year. And the volunteers working in Petrinja



Volunteers in Petrinja using comics to promote social inclusion.

have even inspired the next generation to take part in the EVS project, with volunteers from the town signing up to go on their own EVS adventure abroad.

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) gives young people the opportunity to volunteer abroad. As an organisation you can get financial support to run a project involving one or more international volunteers in your activities.

Find out more: <https://europa.eu/youth/evs20>

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