

How a journey of self discovery led to a job opportunity



EVS and employment

“ *The European Voluntary Service experience allowed me to discover myself and decide what I really wanted.*

Katarzyna Bialkowska

Taking part in an EVS project changed Katarzyna Bialkowska's career path. Ten years after her placement, she now works as a coordinator of European Mobility Projects at Asociación Ser Joven. She is also head of a Polish organisation in Spain, (Cantabria) where she runs intercultural and multilingual education programmes. Katarzyna credits it all to her EVS experience.

Katarzyna Bialkowska is a perfect example of someone whose life was completely changed by EVS. She collaborated with two organisations: one that went on to change her personal life and one which changed her professional life.

Katarzyna was an English teacher in Poland when she took part in an EVS project at Asociación Ser Joven in Spain. She discovered the world of non-formal education and youth work, and a passion for helping young people learn through experience.

Not long after her EVS project ended Katarzyna was offered a job at Asociación Ser Joven along with multiple training opportunities. These helped her build on her experience of non-formal education and international youth work.



Katarzyna Bialkowska describes how her EVS experience helped her career

She also continued to work on activities with her receiving organisation even after her EVS ended. After meeting her partner at one of the activities, Katarzyna now lives in Santander where she worked during her first EVS.

Home country of the EVS volunteer: Poland

EVS duration: 6 months

Country where the volunteering took place: Spain

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>