

SO WHAT'S IN HERE?

page	article
1	Instead of Editorial...
1	An update...
2	EVS explained... -EVS Hierarchy in problem solving-
2	Not to miss... -Cycladic Islands-
3	EVS Reflections... -of Marco from Italy-
4	Learning about Greece... -coffee-
4	Something different... -freecycle-

*This newsletter is made...
...by EVS for EVS...
...by you for you!*

Instead of Editorial...

By Kostas Spatiotis

Hey all!

We are in October already! Summer is gone, September rain has already fallen over our heads, the temperature is quite radically decreasing (yes we have autumn and winter in Greece!), t-shirts and shorts are being put away.

Are we about to fall into this autumn melancholy? We might do, as some find it very inspiring. Others see it as the best time to reflect, rearrange and make new plans!

We will just claim that it is a very rich period, where there is a lot to do, a lot to see, a lot to listen to, a lot to taste, a lot to feel!

So let's make this period, as a good friend says, "the time to repaint the world...", our world, with creativity, passion, journeys, adventures and dreams!

Regards to all! Wait a second! I am Greek! Kisses to all!

An update...

By Kostas Spatiotis

We would like to inform you that our website is being updated! Why and how?

We have been receiving a number of questions about EVS, hence we are developing a forum with all related issues being categorised.

Also, it has been apparent in EVS talks and seminars that the descriptions of the projects very rarely represent the reality. Therefore, we are also developing a project database (only for projects in Greece) where the description is written by the volunteers! Get in contact with us at info@evsactually.gr to send you the form that you need to fill in if you are interested in telling us your view over your project! It's time to demonstrate solidarity to future volunteers!

EVS explained...

By Kostas Spatiotis

I am very happy to have met EVS volunteers that had the opportunity to do EVS in amazing projects. Great activities, proper organization and management, clear roles, learning and self development support and so many more characteristics that should be apparent in every EVS project.

However, I am very sad to have also met volunteers that have faced the exact opposite situations. What are their options then? When they have tried assertive communication, taking own initiative, but still nothing changes? Two things to remember... EVS volunteers are not alone and EVS is part of the Youth in Action Programme, meaning YOU(th)! There is a third thing: You have a sending organization that should be supporting you during your EVS.

Have you read your rights and responsibilities? The EVS Charter? Because this is the basis from which you can claim what is yours: A quality EVS Project.

Still, what is of extreme importance is that every country has a national agency for the programme and they are there to listen to you in cases that are hard to solve, cases that involve conflict and crisis. On the left column, we suggest you an hierarchy you could follow in such cases. Keep in mind, that when asking for answers, it is good to set deadlines and also when a complaint gets to a national agency it should happen in a formal way (not just talking, but writing a signed letter).

This time I am happy to say that I have met volunteers that have followed such procedures and you know what? They got back what was theirs!

You are doing EVS now, you might as well get the most out of it!

Not to miss...

By Aleksandra Georgievska

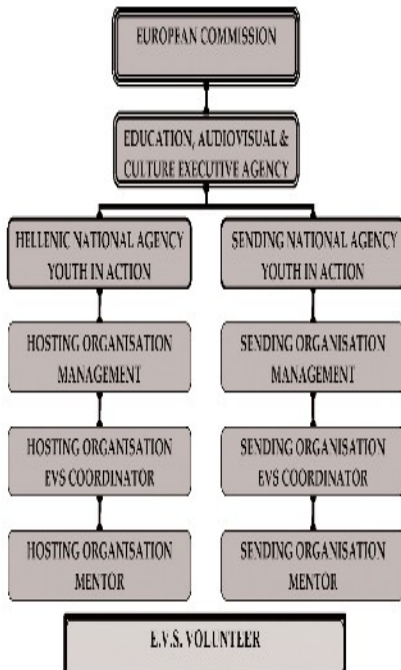
The summer has already finished and I am still with impressions, thoughts and memories far from Athens... 7 hours by boat, **AMAZING CHANIA**. After so many recommendations, I decided to spend holidays in Chania, a heavenly and pure land brimming with natural beauty, history, memory, culture and Cretan folk tradition.

Folklore museums, art of handicrafts such as knitting, embroidering, weaving and looming, knife making in "maherathika" (knife shops), amazing Greek cuisine, traditional taverns, sweet cheese pies called "kalitsounia", drinks like tsikoudia or raki, souvlaki with yogurt... mmm!!!

All that is what you will find in the Old and the New town. The old part is the Venetian Harbor and Quarter, a place that will take your breath, will fill your eyes with sparks and will be impossible to pass just through without tasting the local cuisine and the local people that are always hospital to invite you in for a sweat or a shot of tsikoudia and they won't take no as an answer!

Sightseeing? Beautiful Venetian constructions dating from the 14th-16th century, the Splantza, the Venetian Quarter that stands next to it which is the town's real source of pride. Old-style soft lighting, old houses and narrow streets where you can take all day wondering around exploring each corner's surprises.

The only thing I have left is Samaria Gorge, one of the longest in Europe! I got to go back then! Anyone joining?



EVS Reflections...

By Marco Stalteri

15th of January 2008... a strange day full of emotions, stress, fears about how will it be. Will I adapt there? Will I be alone or will people accept me or... and this is how it started...

Waiting for the other volunteers to arrive all at the same time... Caroline, Sophie and George... like a new just made family we were 😊 but “our parents” were waiting there... Ana, Ale and Carine... Wow such a big family, ha?

In the beginning, I was scared and missed my family more and more. I even wanted to leave and go back...but thanks to my coordinator and other volunteers I changed my mind. In that time I understood that I have to believe in myself, without fears and I decided to stay, just to try... and I stayed in Athens for 8 months. What a mistake I almost committed!!!

Day by day, I was moving and changing, learning the EVS life. Adapting myself to the others and becoming a stronger person. It was really hard time to change myself, be always on the side of the written and unwritten rules and giving all my best to respect them.

My work and my activities in the Daily Care Center made my heart worm and happy to see how with simple things I made people with special needs to feel happy, enjoying what they are doing... just one smile, a touch of them is enough to make you feel productive!

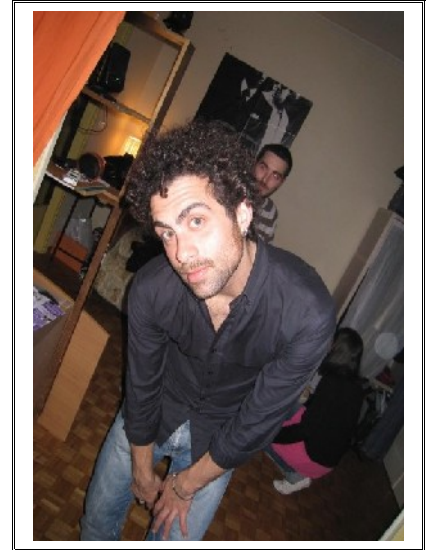
But if I understood something from my EVS, first of all is that I have to have patience, give new chances, be strong in front of every mad or bad circumstances... Before I could not be like this, I was so passionate and reactive!

EVS friends ah... I made a lot of friends all different but we were all equal together... Social Life, Love, Happiness and Parties were all around me... ah I am now asking where are my **8 months of EVS**, how they fly so fast...

Now I ‘m here, just one day to my departure and I m thinking about every single moment felt and lived in this city, in my house, in my life... And I feel strange, worried, scared... because I’ll back in a different country or maybe is going back a different Marco...

Did I tell you I met love? ;)

ENJOY!



Marco was an EVS volunteer in EDRA, based in Athens. He comes from Calabria, Italy. He is a Calaffrican, as he claims!



Marco:

“Did I tell you I met love?”

Learning about Greece...

By Isabel Maldonado Garcia



If you have come to Greece and you have never listened to the word **“frappe”**, it’s like you were never here!! The frappe is a mixed cocktail! of instant coffee, ice cubes, you can add to your taste sugar (then it will be “sketo”, “metrio”, or “gliko”) plus evaporated milk. The result? A very foamy coffee looking like a milk-shake or a piece of art... always served with iced cold water!

The Greeks drink so much **coffee in different forms**, everywhere and all the time... Not only in Italy! Do not forget it!! So you will see people with a frappe in the car, in the bus, walking, in bars, and even on the motorcycle!!!! And always with a coffee in their hands!! Strange? No! It’s just Greece! You will get used to it...

The Greek breakfast is quite poor, but a coffee is totally necessary. So the Greek day starts in this way... But what types of coffee do Greeks drink? Now with the fashion and other influences you can find them very sophisticated ... Evidently, depending on the period of the year and the heat, they can have it cold or hot. So take note of the different coffees in Greece: cold Nescafé frappe, a hot Nes, Cappuccino, Espresso, a classic and traditional Greek coffee (or Turkish ☺), Frappuccino, Fredoccino, Fragoccino, with liquor, with flavours, with creams, with chocolate... I do not yet know very well the differences between all of them... do I forget some type? Yes, for sure I do!! Greeks have turned coffee into science! Soon, they ‘ll put a Master’s Degree on it!

No matter if you go to a kafenio or to a fashionable bar, always you are going to find coffee... If you come to Greece and want to feel integrated, take part in socializing, philosophizing, going out... do not forget that the coffee is a basic element in the culture and the Greek character!!! A great way to be within Greeks! “In Rome do as Romans do”... they say. I hope you like coffee!! And if not... Good luck!!



EVS ACTUALLY
 EVS in Greece Info-Point
 Web: www.evsactually.gr
 Email: info@evsactually.gr
 Athens, Greece

Something different...

EVS Volunteers in Greece! 95 euros per month pocket money! Can you get along financially? Or can you maybe take advantage of what others give away **for free**? Wow!



People are getting tired with messing up with the environment loading it garbage. But also, people

have started thinking at last about solidarity! As a result, a huge global network has been developed where people inform others about things they are giving away for free. Recently got a fridge for free like that! **Anything you can imagine is given away:**

chairs, sofas, beds, computers, machinery, software, hardware, videos, musical instruments, bicycles, you name it!

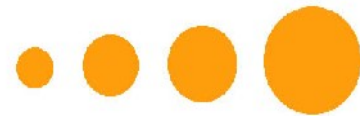
What is this network then? It is **FREecycle**. A non profit network that has 5000 groups all over the worlds and 5000000 members. You can find them in London, Helsinki, Melbourne, Buenos Aires but also Athens, Iraklio, Thessaloniki, Serres and many more places!

So what are you waiting for? Need something for free? Or planning to throw away something that you don’t need but someone else might need it?

Go out there and FREecycle!

www.freecycle.org

By Apostolis Samatas



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

