

Erasmus+ RESOLVE: EAST  
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**RESOLVE:EAST**

**Youth-led  
Social Action Report**

This document was prepared by:



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## Introduction

The Erasmus+ RESOLVE: East youth-led Social Action Report reviews a key area of results of the project. Between February 2019 and April 2019, participants of the RESOLVE: East programme (Resolvers) designed, planned, organised and delivered a range of different social action activities benefiting their local communities in Bosnia-i-Herzegovina; Turkey; Georgia; and United Kingdom.

The Resolvers utilised the skills they developed throughout the lifetime of the RESOLVE: East programme to carry out these social action activities. Although each activity in each country was slightly different they all promoted a theme of social tolerance and community inclusion, mobilising their key Life Skills and Reconciliation for Development competences Resolvers developed.

## Erasmus+ RESOLVE: East Project

**RESOLVE:EAST** is a reconciliation youth exchange & network programme, which aims to use the power of Conflict Resolution tools such as Simulation Games, Sport and wider reconciliation tools and learning to RESOLVE:EAST local and community-level conflicts which especially affects young people today.

RESOLVE:EAST utilises the RESOLVE methods to promote youth reconciliation and it is aimed to be part of the RESOLVE brand to ensure sustainability.

RESOLVE:EAST is a small European-wide partnership involving 4 partners in total, 2 Programme countries and 2 Partner countries. 4 youth exchange activities will take place in London, UK; Tbilisi, Georgia; Sarajevo, B&H; Istanbul, Turkey.

This youth exchange programme aims to develop young peoples' skillsets, launch a youth-led Network (or connect with the current Erasmus+ RESOLVE Network, if this is already live) and support young people to deliver their own local conflict resolution activities through the use of Youth-lead workshops, Sport for Development tools, Simulation games, informal learning, citizenship & democracy and wider tools.

Throughout the activity, participants will not only participate on a unique transnational learning activity, but will also develop leadership and team-working skills, social action and citizenship outlooks and a wide range of competences, essential for their communities, their country and Europe.

With an emphasis on participants learning how to use Simulation games, Sport for Peace and Sport for Development tools to RESOLVE:EAST conflicts, participants will be enabled to be social leaders and mediators within their societies using the power of Sport to change their communities.

Partners will also mobilise wider Reconciliation tools, such as Simulation Games: Simulation Game is an elaborate tool for training, mocking a real-life situation and projecting the potential outcomes of an action. It involves games, role-plays, case studies and socio-drama circumstances to simulate representations of reality situations. In most cases, Simulation Games are used to develop the capabilities of the players/participants to take decisions by providing a model of reality allowing the players to create a dynamic that captures their interest through competition, incentives for success and a scoring component. Long-term Asfar partner, CDC will mobilise the Simulation Game element of RESOLVE:EAST.

Asfar, as an experienced international Youth organization and designer of methodologies including Adapted Sport techniques for development and conflict resolution will work with partners in countries that experience a live or recent War or social conflict. Partners' participants will learn how to use Sport through Asfar's methods to replicate within their own communities to end conflict; build skills; engage with peers from different backgrounds; and address social intolerance.

Alongside Sport techniques, participants will learn about Social Action and how to design and develop their own social action programme utilising tools created by Asfar's KA2 Strategic Partnership programme: Micro-Enterprise and Social Action international Partnerships. Participants will also learn about Global Citizenship, Civic Responsibilities; Human Rights; and Democracy.

Throughout the activities, participants will develop a wide range of further cognitive and non-cognitive skills including:

- **Leadership**
- **Team skills**
- **Communication**
- **Mediation**
- **Project design**
- **Creative skills**
- **Social Awareness**
- **Mindfulness meditation**

### Social Action – summary

Country	Social Action activities
United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UK Resolvers ran a stall at the Beyond Borders’ Activist Fair event at Battersea Arts Centre – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019</li> <li>▪ UK Resolvers organised a crowd-fundraiser for AFRIL</li> <li>▪ Food Bank – goods collection and delivery to local food banks</li> <li>▪ UK Resolvers organised a Language exchange coffee morning</li> </ul>
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Volunteering for distribution of hot meal to homeless people</li> <li>▪ Turkish Resolvers wrote the project “children on the stage” for Syrian refugees' children &amp; was accepted for funding.</li> <li>▪ Turkish Resolvers gave a seminar to students in Istanbul Trade University on the benefits of Erasmus+ for young people.</li> </ul>
Bosnia-i-Herzegovina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The BiH Resolvers organised a Resolve Youth workshop: on effective communication and conflict resolution to peer young people in Sarajevo.</li> </ul>
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Georgia Resolvers organised a ‘Better skills, Better future’ workshops in Kazbegi, Georgia. Skills developed included: Employability; Life Skills; Reconciliation and incorporated the methods learned from the RESOLVE: East project.</li> </ul>

The full Social Action Reports – written by each partner can be read below.

### Resolvers: Social Action photos



United Kingdom – Beyond Borders event – March 2019



Turkey – Soup Kitchen volunteering & Erasmus+ promo event



**Turkey – Soup Kitchen volunteering**



**Bosnia-i-Herzegovina – Reconciliation workshop**



**Bosnia-i-Herzegovina – Reconciliation workshop**



## **United Kingdom – Social Action Report**

The UK Resolvers carried out a range of social action activities in their communities’;

- Beyond Borders’ Activist Fair event at Battersea Arts Centre – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019
- Organised a crowd-fundraiser for AFRIL
- Food Bank – goods collection and delivery to local food banks
- Language exchange coffee morning

### **Reconciliation for Development**

UK Resolvers utilised a range of their new skills – developed through the Erasmus+ RESOLVE: East project- including:

- Leadership skills
- Team-working skills
- Effective communication
- Project design for social action skills
- Creative skills
- Enterprise skills

Specifically in relation to the RESOLVE Reconciliation for Development competencies

- Social Action & Network Management in learners
- Understanding facilitation, training and project delivery and the use of reconciliation methods/techniques
- The development of non-cognitive Life Skills

The UK Resolvers had to mobilise creative thinking and enterprise skills as well as initiative to organise their social action together as a team. This was not easy, as each young person had different time availability and so it required very basic but key Life Skills such as Time Management; Self-Planning; Team-working to engage and design a social action activity.

During the social action activities skills mobilised include:

Communication: UK Resolvers were responsible for engaging with members of the public at the Beyond Borders event, to promote their views on social tolerance, the importance of the UK’s migrant population especially from an economic perspective and also advocating for the rights of Refugees etc.

## **Positives and Negatives**

A significant number of participants from the UK actively planned, managed and were involved in the social action – more than expected.

The social action was all original and was youth-led. Beyond reminding participants of their responsibilities and providing guidance, Asfar did not get involved in the organising of the social action.

Some participants had to high expectation – for instance, the crowdfunding campaign was originally set to raise £5000 for refugee charity AFRIL. Asfar advised against such a significant figure, knowing it would be a difficult amount to raise, considering that few participants have past experience. When £5000 was not raised within 2 weeks, participants were disappointed. Asfar mentored the participants and gave them encouragement, while also guiding them to reduce the figure to £1000.

Although all participants were involved in the planning of the social action, only 11 UK Resolvers were involved in the whole social action activity – beginning to end. 4 participants who were involved in the different youth exchanges did not participate in social action.

## **Lessons learned**

The UK Resolvers learned the following from the social action activities:

- That social action, especially working with peer volunteers is not always easy
- Team-working skills
- Leadership skills
- Creative skills
- Enterprise skills
- Effective Communication & Advocacy

## **Impact, Results & Sustainability**

3 UK Resolvers will actively volunteer on the Network through the Asfar RESOLVE Volunteer Internship plus 5 other young people intend to continue to be involved in the RESOLVE: Network.

Asfar has been advised that a number of other participants intend to do other types of social action and volunteering including through ESC in 2019/2020.

## **Turkey – Social Action Report**

We had 3 social action:

- Volunteering for distribution of hot meal to homeless people: We distributed hot meal for homeless people in different 2 routes in Beşiktaş/İstanbul on 1<sup>st</sup> of March with 9 resolvers. Fatih Avşar (our participant for London) organised the event. We supported the packaging of

93 sets of pasta, soup and bread. And distributed in Taksim Gezi Park region to homeless people on 1<sup>st</sup> of April with 5 resolvers. Ozkan Uzelli organized the event.

- We wrote the project “children on the stage” for Syrian refugees' children. We supported Ismail Kuruhalil (our participant for Tblisi YE) and he became the project responsible. It is granted by micro fund programme by International Childrens Center in Ankara. The project is including 4 meetings with children and a trip. Our first meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> of April and will be realised in Bagcilar district in Istanbul. Our other participants Ümmügülsüm Alegöz, Oktay Yılmaz and Buket Yavuz will be the volunteers in the project.
- We gave a seminar to students in Istanbul Trade University. 9<sup>th</sup> of April Tuesday. Süleyman Tan (our participant for London YE) organized the event. 15 students attended the seminar. The topic was the Erasmus+ Youth Programme and the international opportunities for young people.

### **Reconciliation for Development**

They used their motivation after the exchanges. We did a collaborative work.

### **Positives and Negatives**

- after the volunteering activities the resolvers felt better themselves. They understand the reality of homeless people. And they met a professional organisation on the topic. They understand the differences of delivering random people and doing it in a systematic/professional way.
- Ismail is experiencing the writing, application and running a project. He is happy implying his knowledge of social service in the field practically. Other resolvers are inspired of his job. 3 of other participants will be volunteers and they are enthusiastic about working with Syrian kids and helping them. Before, Visiting the refugees organization in Istanbul YE had impressed all participants.
- we cannot guarantee the sustainability of this volunteering activity with our own resources.
- It is a one month project. After the project we need to continue as being mentors but we don't have fund for that. Maybe we need to write another project for that or find another sponsor for continuation of the project.
- Application process for the seminar was hard and we waited for the permission from the Univesity and it took time. With a good advertising we could reach more attendees . The participants had enough information about E+ but we couldnt build a project team then.

### **Lessons learned**

- In the volunteering activity they use the civic competences.

- In project writing Ismail developed his IT and graphics design skills. As long as using Arabic sometimes for the translations he develop his foreign language skills. Learning to learn..
- Seminar provided more organizational skills, as well as mathematics and IT competences.

### **Impact, Results & Sustainability**

- Homeless people feel themselves closer to the volunteers when the work is on going everyday. It is good for their inclusion to the society.
- Kids are very enthusiastic to work with our volunteers. They are happ with the activities out school depending on learning by doing activities.
- Some students are on the way to applying for ESC. So the seminar worked good for them.

### **Bosnia-i-Herzegovina – Social Action Report**

The BiH Resolvers organised a Resolve Youth: a workshop of effective communication and conflict resolution, a 2 hours long workshop for a diverse group.

#### **Reconciliation for Development**

The BiH Resolvers used a range of skills developed through the Erasmus+ RESOLVE: EAST project including Effective Communication, Empathy, Leadership skills, Facilitation skills.

The BiH Resolvers had to show a lot of initiative for the organisation of the social action and teamwork. As there were a group where most of the participants are from Sarajevo, they organised meetings in Sarajevo, but also used different means of communication Skype, Facebook and telephone, especially with one participant being from Banja Luka.

As there were expecting a very diverse group because the workshop was organised in partnership with the Office for students which is supporting and empowering students with disabilities, firstly a registration process was organised, so that every workshop can be adapted. This process was also supported by professors who are working with people with disabilities. To support the participant with hearing disabilities, everything was written and printed out for her. Secondly the workshops which were used were form the Sarajevo YE, “Wind blows” which was adapted for a participant in a wheelchair as there was no possibility to swap chairs and “Empathy” as the participants where sharing their experience in written and their final comments also in written.

#### **Positives and Negatives**

The social action showed how Resolvers are motivated and willing to organised local actions and to transfer the knowledge they have gained. Also, this particular social action was used to encourage young people to participate in different activities, like other youth exchanges.

Another positive thing, was the initiative showed by one participant who wanted to find sponsors who could support the social action, and indeed one was found a company “OAZA” who supplied the workshop with drinks for all participants.

Only 3 participants who participated in youth exchanges, were not part of the organisation of the social action, but as 2 are working and living outside of Sarajevo, it is understandable. Wings of Hope provided guidance to the participants during the organisation of the action, and was present during all meetings and during the workshop, but did not directly participate in the preparation or implementation of the workshop.

### **Lessons learned**

The BiH Resolvers learned the following from the social action activities:

- Facilitation skills
- Team-building skills
- Project development skills
- Leadership skills,
- Taking initiative
- That working with diverse groups is always taking more effort and more preparation.

### **Impact, Results & Sustainability**

The process started with two meetings of the Resolvers, by discussing the possible workshops that could be organised and during the meetings the timetable of the workshop was drafted and each task was delegated as some participants were taking initiatives on some parts of the workshop. The meetings were an important part of this process as not all participants were participating in the same youth exchanges, and were used to get a sense of everyone’s strengths.

Secondly, this was first time for them to facilitate a workshop and they have now knowledge about other participants from B&H with whom they could work on other projects.

The social action was organised with the cooperation with the Students Support System of the University of Sarajevo for students with disabilities. In this way students who have some kind of disability (autism, hearing disability, wheelchair).

Some participants already expressed their interest in continuing in participating in future RESOLVE projects.

### **Georgia – Social Action Report**

We as a team from resolve east program from Georgia, planed session for municipality of Kazbegi, Georgia. The session was part of the program Better skills, Better Future. Program aims to give skills and tools for better future for young people and give them possibilities to improve their future life.

Part of the program was team building and peace building in which we used methods from Resolve east program. In the group of 17 youngsters, team building, and conflict resolution topics were discussed, and participants were provided with theoretical knowledge and practical experiences.

### **Reconciliation for Development**

We used the skills and knowledge we gained during each country meeting. Some of the methods from the meetings were used during the seminars, and some methods were added by the local Resolvers team.

### **Positives and Negatives**

Participants took part in several activities - they tried some games, participated in team building and efficient communication activities. They mostly were working in small groups and discussion were held during the plenums, in fact program itself worked very well, as was well balanced, and participants had chance to get theoretical knowledge and also experience a lot. In practice.

As the project itself was planned very well and whole program was intense, the activities had positive outcome.

### **Lessons learned**

We used activities about communications, for efficient communication and also different games and energizers, some of them were used during the youth exchange meetings, but organizers team took into consideration needs of the participants and added some more methods.

For the local Resolvers it was a good opportunity to develop facilitators skills. Working with group and dealing with diverse group was another important experience. additionally, understanding needs of youngsters from region and supporting them in dealing with everyday conflict situations, was the most important experience, for local Resolvers.

### **Impact, Results & Sustainability**

For local Resolvers, the most important impact was the possibility of spreading knowledge and experience among youngsters gained through the Resolve project. After seminar, more youngsters have learned about conflicts and its resolution tools, and successful seminar brought respect and trust for organizers, that is a good basis for future activities.

After the activity, local youngsters in their feedbacks mentioned that they realized importance of team work and realized reasons and results of conflicts. They became aware with the tools of conflict analysis and will use them in everyday life.



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The Georgian Resolvers intend to continue on with the RESOLVE: Network activities and wider social action to at least 2020.