



Erasmus+ *Call for volunteers:*

European Solidarity Corps

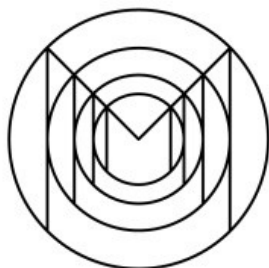
Community building, transformation & education for change

Project duration and location:

Jan, 1st 2020 to Sept, 2021

Shipka, Kazanlak, Bulgaria

Hosting organization:



OPEN MIND



With the partnership of:

“Association “Vortex”, Kazanlak

- **Narodno Chitalishte “Svetlina - 1861”
(Shipka cultural center)**

Project description

- The project is in its context a project in public benefit, focused on improving the quality of life in the Rose Valley. The project will assist the OPEN MIND foundation and the Cultural Center of Shipka in their goal to transform Shipka into a modern cultural, historic and tourist town and make it a cultural tourism landmark. Alongside with this work OPEN MIND works for a zero life style +better waste management system
- OPEN MIND has also started children learning center, using alternative education methods, such as suggestopedia, Montessori, Waldorf.
- With a clear understanding that the overall level and quality of life depends upon the subjective well-being of every individual, we have created the plan for the project activities to resonate with the actual problems of the local community.

Planned activity : Learning and applying
alternative education methods: sugestopedia,
waldorf education, montesori to teach children
a foreign language



Planned activity : Educational and other activities for community waste



Planned activities : Writing articles and
online content on natural learning &
waste management, permaculture, etc

omind.org

[HOME](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[PROJECTS](#)

[NEWS](#)



Planned activities : Eco-trail



Maintenance and adding new signs to eco-trail “In the footsteps of Felix Vogeli” that has being created by the OPEN MIND foundation and the Initiative Committee for Protection of the forest, Shipka with the help of ERASMUS volunteers in 2017

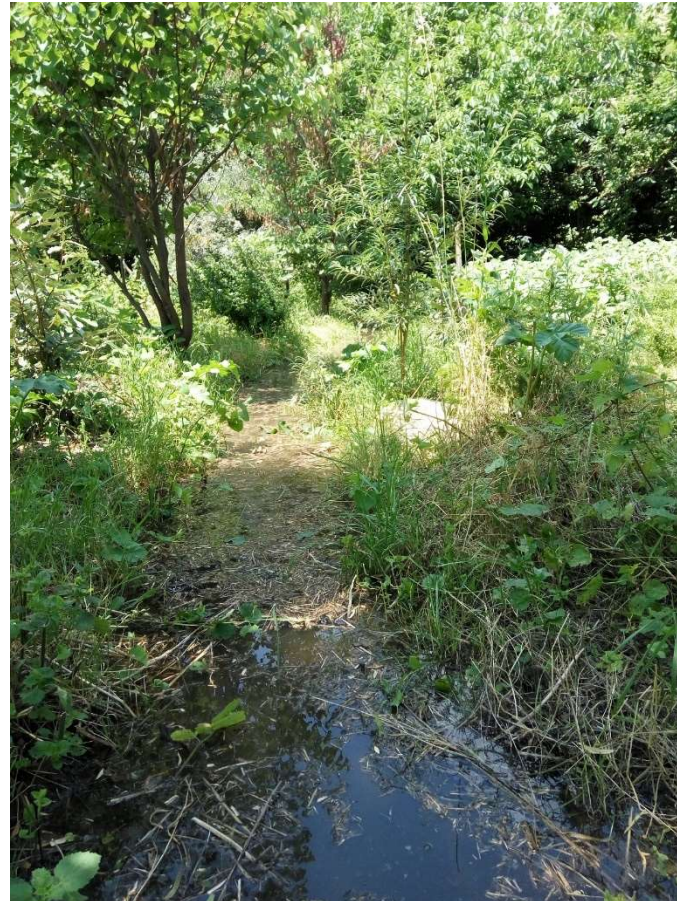
Learning activities with kids about importance of the ecosystem benefits of the forest.



Planned activity: Organization of cultural and educational activities. Support to the works of the local library, arts gallery and museum



Planned activity: Maintenance of ecological center and gardens, and development of abandoned green areas into new gardens.



Planned activities: Learning about permaculture design. Design exercises.



Permaculture Ethics



1. Care of the Earth
2. Care of People
3. Redistribute Surplus / Fair Share

1. Care of the Earth

Provision for all life systems to continue and multiply. Care of the earth means care of all living and non-living things: soils, species and their varieties, atmosphere, forests, micro-habitats, animals, and waters.

2. Care of People

Provision for people to access those resources necessary for their existence. Care of the earth also implies care of people so that our basic needs for food, shelter, education, satisfying employment, and convivial human contact are taken care of.

3. Redistribute Surplus / Fair Share

Contribute surplus time, money and energy to achieve the aims of earth and people care. By governing our own needs, we can set resources aside to further the above principles.

Prime Directive: The only ethical decision is to take responsibility for our own existence and that of our children's.

Participants

- **Flow 1** - 2 Volunteers from June (or July-Aug) 2020 to Sept, 2021.

activities: alternative education methods, waste management, permaculture learning,

- **Flow 2** - 3 Volunteers from June (or July or Aug), 2020 to Sept, 2021

Activities: Community and culture – weekly activities with children, monthly cinema projections, learning crafts, cultural and community event

Accommodation

- Shared house in Shipka including internet access and garden. 2 people are in a rented house and 3 people are in the OPEN MIND demonstration center house (where is also OPEN MIND office)

Local team



Tatyana Kossekova (Tania) – Chairman of the OPEN MIND foundation, Chairman of the Shipka cultural center “Narodno Chitalishte – Svetlina 1861”. Certified permaculture designer. Experience in ecological education, non-violent communication, learning by doing. Trained youth worker and facilitator. Graduated in BA from Sofia University Kliment Ohridski.

Worked for 13 years in one the biggest company in the world and left in order to created the first learning center for permaculture in Bulgarian – Permaship. www.permaship.org



Kalinka Yordanova–

- Works as a teacher in Space for Learning “Golden apple” in Kazanlak, ran by the Natural Education Association
- Graduated with Masters degree as Preschool and primary teacher from Plodvi University. Bachelor of ethnology from Sofia University
- Certified in suggestopedagogy
- Certified “Together in class” teacher



- **Momka Shopova**– Works as a teacher in Space for Learning “Golden apple” in Kazanlak, ran by the Natural Education Association
- Graduate of Pedagogics – Physics and astronomy from Sofia University “Sv. Sv. Kl. Ohridski, and Pre-school and Primary School pedagogics.
- Certified sugestopedegogics teacher – primary school
- English language specialization. 20+ Experience as a teacher.

Local team



- **Maria Armeikova** – Born in Shipka. Graduated in Slavic philology and Business Administration. Speaks English and Czech. Interested in history, archeology, ethnology, folklore, theatre, rock music. Maria came back to Shipka in 2017 and joined our team.



Bojidar Lambov - Member of the non-formal group Vortex and Narodno Chitalishte Future Now (www.gudevica.org). Experienced youth worker, extensive experience in non-formal education, work with children, ecological education, certified permaculture designer. Graduated in Geography and Biology, pedagogical profile from Sofia University “Kliment Ohridski”



Rada Stoyanova– Museum curator of ethnographic museum in Shipka, which is part of the Narodno Chitalishte – Svetlina – 1861”. Graduated in cultural studies from Sofia University. Graduated Audio-visual products from I.E.S Puerta Bonita, Madrid Spain. Certified Graphic designer. Speaks English, Spanish and French.

Expected results

- The participants will achieve new knowledge, skills and competences, self-sufficiency, multicultural understanding and appurtenance to the European community.
- Some of the direct results of the project will be development of alternative schooling methods, improved communication of the existence of alternative schooling methods, improved education and awareness of the need to waste separation and composting. Well maintained ecotrail “In the foot steps of Felix Vogeli” and increased publicity for the existence of the ecotrail.
- The benefit for all partners are support to achieving the individual goals of the partners - creation of more aware society and communities as alternative of the current consumer society, improving the living conditions in small towns and villages, support in the protection of the biodiversity as well as support to the young people in their professional and personal realization.



Who are we?

OPEN MIND foundation main goal is to raise awareness in environmental and social areas of life. The means to achieve this is through:

- The annual music festival Artmospheric <http://artmospheric.org/en/>
- The permaculture center and demonstration gardens in Shipka (which was the first of its kind in Bulgaria) - www.permaship.org – alongside with the translation and publishing of the first book on permaculture in Bulgarian language.
https://www.facebook.com/PermacultureGarden/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel
- OPEN MIND is the producer of the first Bulgarian documentary short about birth and the issues surrounding birth.
- In Shipka OPEN MIND is working in cooperation with the Cultural center Chitalishte “Svetlina -1861” and the Initiative Committee for the protection of the forest. The Mayor of Shipka, the local Cultural center and the Initiative Committee group have 2 common goals:

www.omind.org

www.shipka.info

Participants Age: 18 to 30.

Deadline when will be notified if the project is approved by the Bulgarian National Agency -

If interested pls. send CV and motivation letter to:

evs.openmind[@gmail.com](mailto:evs.openmind@gmail.com)

More information:

www.omind.org

Natural Learning

Information about Shipka, Bulgaria

- Shipka is a small town, that has a lot of interesting history, touristic sites and beautiful nature, but has not managed yet to attract enough tourist flow to help make it more lively. There is not much activities for young people. There is enormous potential to make life more interesting for the local people
- <https://goo.gl/photos/SQ4sXhYRXgtFdCum8>

Information about Kazanlak, Bulgaria

Kazanlak is the main town in the Rose Valley. The town is renowned with rose oil production and the tourist sites of tracian kings that once lived in the valley. It has an interesting cultural and historic wealth.

