

# PVN ALBANIA

---

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2020



*Projekte Vullnetare Ndërkombëtare*

# WHO WE ARE: A BRIEF SUMMARY

---

Projekte Vullnetare Nderkombetare, hereafter PVN, is a non-profit organization that promotes social development and peace by voluntary work and international youth exchanges. PVN as a branch of Service Civil International apart from adhering and respecting the same values and principles fulfills the aim of its foundation by organizing social, ecological, and cultural activities. We as an organization aim for a healthy society in liaising with different partners to encourage public awareness and its entanglement into voluntary activities. The main target groups PVN work with are people in need such as: orphans, people with disabilities, the Roma community, and young people.

**Our mission:** PVN is an organization that works for a healthy society in collaboration with different partners to encourage youth empowerment, raise public awareness, and involvement in development, cultural and artistic activities at national and international levels.

Aim: Increase the capacities and progress of Albania youth society.

## **Objectives:**

- Development of community by informing and involving youth in different activities;
- Foster intercultural exchanges and dialogue by sending and hosting young people in various activities in Albania and abroad;

- To create equal opportunities for all especially for categories in need and youth with fewer opportunities;
- To increase the sense of voluntarism in Albanian society;
- To empower, raise awareness, and inform young people on important issues related directly to them;
- To cooperate with all organizations and institutions that share the same values with PVN at the national and international level;
- To empower youth and local communities in remote areas of Albania;
- Coordination of volunteering exchanges at local and international level;

#### **Activities carried out by PVN in 2020 in a nutshell:**

- 7 Capacity building training courses at national, regional and European level
- 2 Youth Exchanges
- 2 International / regional Work camps
- 50 Follow-up activities/ local peer to peer workshops
- 3 Manuals Produced
- 5 Online campaigns
- 1 Flashmob
- 2 Conferences
- Hosted 3 ESC volunteers
- Supported 6 outgoing ESC volunteers



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

5	<b>1. PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES SET IN IN ALBANIA</b>
5	1.1 Speak Up we are listening: Addressing gender and family-based violence.
8	1.2 You(th) up for the intercultural dialogue and Learning
9	1.3 Power of Dialogue: “Intercultural Dialogue as Powerful Instrument for Youth Development and Mobility”
10	1.4 What you give is what you get: Interpersonal development and social impact through local and international volunteering;
11	1.5 (t) Error Violence: Role of Gender and You(th);
12	1.6 Volunteering for Solidarity and Inclusion;
14	<b>2. EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS: HOSTING AND SUPPORTING PROJECTS</b>
14	2.1 ESC hosting ;
14	2.2 ESC supporting;
17	<b>3. INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL WORKCAMPS;</b>
18	<b>4. CURRENT AND PROSPECT PROJECTS OF PVN FOR 2021</b>
18	4.1 VullnetarizmipikeAL
18	4.2 “The Stories We Share”
19	4.3 Supporting and hosting ESC volunteers 2021
19	4.4 Workcamps 2021
19	5. Our donors

# 1.PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES SET IN IN ALBANIA

---

The 2020 unlike any other year, impeded our daily activities. Nonetheless, we as PVN made it possible to implement some of our projects both offline and online, while others were deferred for later. Have a look at how 2020 went for us...

## **1.1 Speak Up we are listening: Addressing gender and family-based violence.**

Aimed to inform and empower young people on how to identify and address problematic conducts and relationships manifested through various forms of violence. The project was composed of several activities: two training courses 1st one took place from 20 to 25 of July meanwhile the 2nd one took place from 06-11 August 2020 and 26 participants with and without fewer opportunities coming from 11 cities of Albania, took part in both pieces of training. The training was largely based on non-formal education tools such as energizers, team building games, presentations from participants, etc. Implementation of training courses was ensued immediately by follow up activities organized by participants consisting of:

**Work camp:** Work camp took place immediately after the 1st training course and lasted for a week. Participants had the chance to work with different target groups such as children in street situation and their families, youth with fewer opportunities, and elderly people. For the entire duration of the work camp participants employed non-formal education tools used during the training and around 35 beneficiaries became part of it.

**Local Workshops:** The participants of both pieces of the training set in 8 workshops reaching out to 108 young people with and without fewer opportunities. Workshops took place offline and online.

**Online campaign:** The online campaign took place for 35 full days and it was split into four main categories: messages targeting young people, messages targeting victims of the violence, messages to public institutions to duly handle the phenomenon, and holistic info and messages on the role we all play to fuel or hinder violence.

Aside from that, another output of the project was the Manual “Gender-based violence: Awareness raising and prevention of gender-based violence through non-formal education for young people”. The Manual, messages, and posters produced by our participants can be found on our social media and we are sharing here some of them along with impressions and moments from the activities:



## Voices of participants:



My name is Alma, I am 18 years old and on August 6-10, 2020 I was selected to participate in the national training “ Speak Up we are listening” organized by International Voluntary Project (PVN) with the financial support of the European Youth Foundation (EYF). The main topic of this training was “ Prevention of the gender-based violence in Albania” which was addressed in the most professional ways possible through open discussions, accurate information, statistics, and the possible solutions related to the topic.

The training was based on non-formal education methods of learning, enabling participants to learn through active participation and dissemination of the knowledge acquired through follow-up activities. Group communication and positive vibes brought by each of the participants enriched the project. From the training, I would like to single out the energizers that perked us up and motivated us to be more active in discussions, the exhibition with the drawings of abused girls and women expressing their suffering through art. Through this exhibition many of us could feel the pain and violence exerted on them, making us more self-aware and raising awareness on the measures to be taken in our society. This experience inspired new friendships and prospect collaborations, for positive changes in ourselves and the society we live in. I am delighted to have participated in this training so well organized and fruitful that allowed us to exercise skills and knowledge gained during this training, through follow up activities, workshops, and campaigns in our hometown



My name is Aurens Bylyku and it all started as a very casual thing. I saw the announcement and decided to apply, as the saying goes: You never know what life has reserved for you. When I was contacted back by PVN and notified that I had been accepted, I said to myself I will go and have a look, because the training topic was very consumed for me. However, it turned out to be one of the most beautiful, fantastic, and inspiring training. There I met wonderful people, I met Oltiana, the head trainer who entertained us with her sessions. I got to know Stenaldo, Doljana, and Elida that filled me up with unprecedented optimism about life and much more.

Those were four days missing from my 2020 to date. I will never forget it as an experience, because this short journey, together with those fantastic folks, has embedded roots in my heart. Thank you, PVN!



## 1.2 You(th) up for the intercultural dialogue and Learning

The regional project You(th) up for the intercultural dialogue and learning, supported brought together 4 partners and schools, youngsters, pupils, teachers, and youth workers from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Serbia to increase knowledge, skills, and practice intercultural learning and dialog as a path to reconciliation in the Western Balkan. It had two activities: The first activity of the project was partners meeting in Shkodra and the second intervention a Youth exchange that assembled 25 youngsters and 4 high school teachers for 5 days in the capital of Albania. The YE's program was heavily drawn on non-formal education tools interlaced with non-violent communication tools. Moreover, participants had the opportunity to explore the city, discover artworks, spot murals, dance with locals, etc. One of the highlights of the intervention was the **video produced** by participants where meaningful messages were disseminated and the flash mob that took place in Skanderbeg Square. The **flash mob** was facilitated by PVN's ESC volunteers and helped to bind the participants up to one another. Additionally, participants forged awareness-raising messages on ICL and messages starting with "Peace for me is..." and prepared the follow-up activities that were conducted immediately after the Youth exchange in their local communities. In total 12 workshops are organized, 3 per country: Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Serbia and 135 participants have been entangled in these local interventions.

Another prominent part of this project was the **Online campaign** which took place for 23 full days and messages forged by participants during Youth Exchange were posted on Facebook and Instagram. The last activity was local peer to peer workshops in the 4 Partner Countries, where xx pupils and youngsters benefited





### 1.3 Power of Dialogue: “Intercultural Dialogue as Powerful Instrument for Youth Development and Mobility”

The project aimed to promote and facilitate intercultural dialogue and tolerance among young people, and to support the development of youth work and partnerships between youth organizations and schools in WB6.

The project and notably its activities brought together young people, teachers, (4) organizations, and 12 high schools and youth workers coming largely from the region to discuss the topics of culture, intercultural learning as a path towards intercultural dialogue, peace, reconciliation, and regional cooperation and touched on other topics. The project kicked off with the **partners meeting**, and then followed with **Capacity Building Training** which gathered 27 teachers and youth workers from the region for a week in Tirana regardless of unpropitious conditions. The Capacity Building Training ensued by the production of a **Manual** with practical information and tools to be employed to practice ICL and ICD. Follow-up activities carried out by participants of the Training managed to reach 225 pupils and young people with fewer opportunities in the region as the direct beneficiaries of these local interventions. Owing to the pandemic, the **Youth Hybrid Exchange** meant to take place offline was organized in a blended format, thus the local team met offline by adhering to the COVID-19 rules and altogether met online taking advantage of online tools such as ZOOM. Participants of the Youth Exchange became part of the postcards competition and per each country, we had a winner awarded with a Tablet. All the postcards produced by the participants were used to prepare a calendar also, became part of the online campaign which took place for two weeks. Furthermore, a video was produced by participants targeting their peers by sharing messages and facts on youth collaboration and peace in our region.



A manual was also produced in English and translated into the local language of each country as part of the project, the manual is available online and it contains valuable information for those working in the field of intercultural dialogue and youth. The project helped to strengthen the collaboration between teachers coming from the region, teachers and youth workers, organizations, and high schools and it provided a space for the above-mentioned actors to disseminate their experiences and learn.

The project was supported financially by Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) implemented by PVN in liaising with AzBuki (Serbia), KREATOR (N.Macedonia), and ICSI (Kosovo).

#### **1.4 What you give is what you get: Interpersonal development and social impact through local and international volunteering.**

The project “What you give is what you get”, aimed to further foster the volunteering culture in the region and beyond it, kicked off with a **Partnership Building Seminar** hosted by IMPAKT, the lead organization of this project. The seminar took place in Tirana and brought together 17 representatives of NGO-s from the Western Balkans who shared good volunteering practices and made plans ahead for more qualitative volunteering. Immediately after that ensued the **Regional Survey** in Western Balkans on Young people’s perceptions about volunteering, a questionnaire was produced and translated in local languages and distributed online. In total 2200 youngsters coming from the Western Balkan 6 filled out the questionnaire and each country came with a final research report and the results of the survey were presented at a national conference ahead of the Regional Conference which took place online. Regardless of the grave situation caused by the Covid-19, some countries managed to organize the conferences offline with a constrained number of people such as Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina. In the Regional Conference, representatives of civil society organizations, local institutions, young people, teachers of schools and universities, media representatives, local power representatives took part. There have been around 300 participants directly attending the conference that took place on the International Day of Volunteering.

A **training of Youth Workers** coming from several countries such as Turkey, Serbia, Kosovo, Ireland, etc was conducted from 1 to 7 of September in Durres. The intervention aimed to further develop the skills of youth workers on how to set in local activities for young people, how to engage them in regional and international volunteering programs, and notably youth exchanges.

The participants of the training were given the task to conduct up to three workshops online or offline once they were back in their home country. This project was financially supported by Erasmus Plus and implemented by IMPAKT in partnership with PVN Albania.



### 1.5 (t) Error Violence: Role of Gender and You(th)

The project (t)Error Violence: Role of Gender and You(th) financially supported by the European Youth Foundation of Council of Europe was notably focuses on increasing the capacities of youth organizations, youth workers, and young people to tackle the phenomenon of radicalization and violent extremism that leads to terrorism and trying to understand the role of women and youth in P/CVERLT. The project consisted of three main activities: the international training which took place in Durres from 1 to 7th of September and gathered 27 youth workers and youngsters from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, N.Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey, and Ireland. As the health of our participants was a priority we made certain to do so by adhering to Covid rules set by the Albanian government. During the training, we addressed many issues that lead to radicalization and subsequently violent extremism although scholars claim that there isn't a direct nexus, such as discrimination, hate speech, racism, and some means to tackle them such as non-violent communication and intercultural dialogue, etc.



Participants aside from acquiring the knowledge they developed skills to be active actors in their local community by carrying out workshops with their peers online and offline. Participants of the training organized 10 local interventions and 272 young people were reached up in all the countries part of the project. Moreover, a Manual was produced on the occasion of this project that can be found online on our website.



## 1.6 Volunteering for Solidarity and Inclusion

The project Volunteering for Solidarity and Inclusion, supported by European Youth Foundation under Covid-19 Special call, aimed to empower youngsters without and with fewer opportunities, youth workers to take concrete initiatives and help elderly people, the Roma community, and people with disabilities on the ongoing pandemic in their local community. The project had foreseen several interventions and kicked off with a national training that took place in Tirana from 1 to 10th of December and gathered 15 young people without and with fewer opportunities and youth workers from all over Albania. The training was based largely on non-formal education methods such as team building games, working groups, energizers, participants acquired theoretical and practical knowledge as immediately after the training they were engaged at the Multidisciplinary Center of

Municipality of Tirana as volunteers for 5 full days where they had the chance to work with 3 different groups: elderly people, children in street situation and children with disability.



Participants of the training wrote and disseminated messages to raise the awareness of their peers and called on them to break the stereotypes on the abilities of people with disabilities and try to help those in need during these hard times. Additionally, participants produced a bilingual video on the occasion of International Volunteering Day in spoken and Albanian sign language and became part of the Regional Conference about "Perceptions of young people residing in Western Balkan 6 on volunteering. The second intervention foreseen was follow-up activities which were carried out by the participants. Some of them decided to set in a workshop whereas others decided to prepare a food package for families in need of help elderly people in their neighborhood to do the groceries for them or buy medicines, etc. Since the training took place while we celebrated human rights week, participants prepared many awareness-raising messages that became part of an online campaign. The online campaign lasted for a week and targeted young people with and without free opportunities and the wide public to raise awareness on the importance volunteering has for our lives and those that surround us.

## 2. EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS: HOSTING AND SUPPORTING PROJECTS

---

In 2020 PVN made it to support and host a significant number of volunteers regardless of the pandemic Covid-19. The volunteers' incoming and outgoing were engaged in different projects from children to working with elderly people, youth, environment, people with disability, etc.

### 2.1 ESC hosting

In 2020, PVN hosted 5 short-term volunteers coming from Ireland (1) and France (4). Throughout their project, short-term ESC volunteers have been engaged at the Multidisciplinary Center of Tirana Municipality working with children in street situations and the elderly as well as delivering workshops on the topic of human rights and environment for pupils of Lalmi's secondary school.

### 2.2 ESC supporting

We managed to support 10 short and long-term outgoing ESC volunteers who were sent to Turkey, Norway, Switzerland, Poland, etc and volunteers were and currently are involved in various projects that range from environment, youth, children, and people with disabilities. Whistle 17 of them successfully wind up their projects and below you will find some of the accounts volunteers have shared with us.

### Stories of volunteers

#### Kastriot Ndrevataj's account "ESC in Chiari"

Kastriot did his long-term ESC project in Chiari, Italy and he was mainly working with the kindergarten children and in a bar-café run by the association. For Kastriot, living and working for 10 months in a foreign country was challenging as well as amusing. Challenging as it was the first time he was away from his family for such a long time, I did not know what to expect, culture and customs differed and the outbreak of Covid -19 just added to it.



Nonetheless, on the other hand, I had to chance to meet and talk to many people coming from different countries in Europe, accompanying children and sharing meals (lunch with them), I improved the Italian language and thanks to the presence of an Italian cooker who was everyday cooking for us, I learned how to cook something which I had never done before. Furthermore, for the first time, I had the opportunity to organize and participate in a work camp.



### **Klea Bregu, My ESC volunteering service in Wroclaw, Poland**



Klea volunteered for a year in Wroclaw, Poland in an environmental organization called FundacjaEkoRozwoju. I knew nothing of Poland before going there, except that it was cold. The first few days I was getting to know everyone at the office and also getting to know the city. Although I had volunteered before in my country, this was totally a new experience for me. I was mostly helping in organising

workshops, events, and activities for environmental, cultural, and discrimination issues. Our main target group was children and teenagers; we worked with children from Poland but also from all around the world who for some reason or another, had ended up in Wroclaw. We were guests in many events organized by the municipality of the city and even performed in an annual festival and a theatre. I also had the opportunity to create and lead my own workshops about environmentalism and climate change. I suggest ESC to everyone who would like to do something beneficial for both the community and themselves. It is also a great way to connect with people from all over the world and see things from a new perspective.

## **Ornela Alija**

I moved to Slovenia in mid-January of 2020 and since then it has been a whirlwind. My project of volunteering mainly involved working with children and young people in a daily center but also work in different art and entertainment center around the city. Almost three months after my arrival, the world pandemic started to take a hold of the normal life in Slovenia so the isolation, social distancing started all happening. However, with a lot of support from the team, I managed to be as productive as possible: I have been able to exhibit my artworks twice and I also worked on other projects. It has been a great experience and for anyone who is thinking of experiencing something new away from their home, I would encourage you to do something like this, out of your comfort zone and afresh.

## **Çesilia Rexha, my ESC Experience**

Çesilia is a 22-year-old girl, she has studied social sciences and has many volunteering experiences in Albania, but last year, after finishing her Master Studies, she decided to volunteer abroad through European Solidarity Corps. I made this choice intending to help others, gain life and work experience, most of all, finding some autonomy and independence in my personal life.



So, in November I went to volunteer in the province of Barcelona, in a small lovely town called Vic. I worked with people with intellectual disabilities in two of the occupational centers and I was flat sharing with some other volunteers from different countries of Europe. Luckily, for me, it was super easy to adapt to this new environment, new lifestyle. It is unbelievable how fast the unknown becomes known and a faraway place becomes home. During these months I learned a lot. I worked with wonderful people and by making their day better, I was making myself happier. Even though it was not always easy, all these experiences helped me grow in some way. So far, this was the best year of my life! I met great people, I got to know myself better and I fulfilled many of the expectations I had in the beginning...and some of them just happened along the way without expectation. I hope you all get to live this once-in-a-lifetime experience!

### 3. INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL WORKCAMP

---

Workcamps or short-term volunteering services are projects organized in cooperation with SCI branches and partner organizations, who create and organize these projects together with local communities. Short-term voluntary projects aim to break down barriers between people and develop intercultural understanding. In that way, they contribute to building a culture of peace among people. The projects place a strong emphasis on intercultural learning and include elements of peace education. There are many different projects to choose from and they are open to everyone.

In 2020 in the light of the pandemic, PVN could organize only two work camps and the work camps took place at the Multidisciplinary center of Municipality of Tirana. Owing to the travel restrictions we managed to have volunteers only from the region and notably from Kosovo, volunteers worked largely with children in street situations and the elderly. In the second work camp which took place at the beginning of December 2020, we hosted volunteers only from Albania.



## PROJECTS WE LIAISED IN 2020

In 2020, although PVN was part of several projects they were all deferred for late 2021 or 2022.

## 4. CURRENT AND PROSPECT PROJECTS OF PVN FOR 2021

---

### **4.1 VullnetarizmipikeAL**

Currently, PVN in partnership with two other Albanian NGO-s (Beyond Barriers and Center for Progress and Development) is implementing the project “VullnetrazmipikeAL”. The project aims to create a multidimensional enabling environment where voluntarism is encouraged, supported, and conceded as a key mechanism to fostering active citizenship, solidarity, and social cohesion in Albania. In the frame of the project, PVN was responsible to conduct a nationwide survey study by interlacing a questionnaire with focus groups and face-to-face interviews either online or offline. While the questionnaire was shared online, the PVN team led by Oltiana Rama conducted focus groups with teachers, representatives of Municipalities, representatives of NGO-s, Daily Centers, and activists. The results of the inquiry together with some recommendations on how to ameliorate the volunteering in Albania will be presented at an ad-hoc Conference to take place on 31st of May in a hybrid format online and offline.

### **4.2 “The Stories We Share”**

Another ongoing project of PVN which aims to create an audio project in the form of a podcast series to connect and share personal stories and experiences of young people in four western Balkan countries: Albania, N. Macedonia, Kosovo, and Serbia. The project foresees the implementation of three activities: online and offline training and producing, publishing, and promoting the podcast series.



### 4.3 Supporting and hosting ESC volunteers 2021

PVN continues to host and support ESC volunteers across Europe, up to now we have hosted 3 short-term volunteers from Poland who were engaged at our partner Multidisciplinary center of Municipality of Tirana. We have supported 6 volunteers: 2 to Poland, 2 to Spain, Austria, and Italy whereas two others await to begin their ESC journey.

### 4.4 Workcamps 2021

We are in the planning phase of the 2021 work camps to be organized in partnership with the Multidisciplinary Center and volunteers will be working largely with children in a street situation, elderly people, and children with disabilities.

## 5. OUR DONORS

Thanks to the support of donors and partners we made it possible to organize the majority of the activities. The donors/partners who supported the project during 2020 are: European Youth Foundation/Council of Europe; European Commission, Erasmus plus program, respectively National Agency of France, Ireland, International Secretariat of SCI, A huge contribution is given by partners, institutions ( such as Municipality of Tirana, High Schools, Libraries in Tirana, Volunteers, etc, who give their time, energy, and other in-kind contributions to our annual projects.

### PVN Albania structure

