

PIRINvolve

Find YOUR place - Connect - Contribute



**5 months ESC volunteering in
Bulgaria 2026/2027**



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**



Co-funded by
the European Union

Who are we?

Zarika Association is where ideas turn into experiences, connections, and action.

We create opportunities for young people to discover what they're capable of, meet inspiring people, build real-life skills, and make a difference — in their own lives and in their communities.

From creative workshops and international projects to volunteering, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and personal development, we design experiences that help you grow, explore, connect, and take initiative.

We believe in a world with less apathy and more empathy — where people don't just wait for change, but become part of it.



Project info

- **When?** November 3rd 2026 - April 2nd 2027
(151 days + 2 travel days)
- **Where?** Bansko, Bulgaria
- **What is covered?**
 - Accommodation in a twin room in a shared house
 - Food and pocket money: 300 € per month
 - Travel expenses from your home country to Bansko and back, and visa (if applicable)
 - Insurance (for international volunteers only)



Bansko is more than mountains and ski slopes — it's a lively mix of nature, local culture, international people, creativity, and community life, where there's always something new to discover.

Volunteering here means becoming part of that mix: meeting people from around the world, creating things that matter locally, and turning a small mountain town into your own place for adventure, connection, and growth.

Project location

Project objectives

- Expanding learning and development opportunities for young people from small towns and rural areas
- Encouraging inclusion, solidarity, and active citizenship
- Building sustainable organizational and partnership capacity for social impact



Project activities

- Organize workshops, campaigns, and community events on entrepreneurship, arts and culture, active citizenship, and global education
- Deliver non-formal educational activities in schools, youth, and social service spaces
- Support youth participation, volunteering initiatives, and international projects
- Create episodes for Zarika Podcast and social media content, educational materials, and awareness campaigns
- Take part in community actions, cultural and environmental initiatives. Represent Zarika at different forums and fairs in Bulgaria
- Develop and implement your own ideas, workshops and local initiatives
- Promote sustainable lifestyles, environmental awareness, and green practices. Work in an international team while meeting young people from different cultures



What will you gain?

- Improved skills: teamwork, communication, English language, cooperation in intercultural environments, digital skills, taking initiative, adaptability, flexibility, problem-solving, and more.
- Experience in diverse working environments and office work in the context of an NGO.
- The opportunity to experience the life of a multicultural town with strong local traditions and amazing nature.
- During your project, you will have the support of our team and a mentor, a young person who will meet with you regularly and ensure that all your needs are discussed and, hopefully, met.
- On-arrival training and/or a mid-term training, organized by the Bulgarian National Agency (NA) that manages the ESC, together with other volunteers based in Bulgaria. The schedule and organization of these activities depend on the NA.
- The international volunteers will have the opportunity to learn Bulgarian through free online courses. Since most of our work will be in English, you will practice your English daily.
- At the end of your project, you will be awarded a YouthPass certificate, as official recognition of the skills and knowledge you acquired. You can find more information about it [here](#).

Eligibility criteria

We welcome applications from young people aged 18–30 who are legally residing in one of the **ESC Programme Countries**:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain & Sweden, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye & Norway.

We are looking for people who are:

- interested in non-formal education, creating workshops, and organizing activities for young people and the local community
- keen on gaining experience in youth and social work
- able to communicate in English
- willing to be creative and engaged in Zarika's activities
- eager to take initiative and work in a multicultural team
- willing to create content and manage social media
- passionate and willing to learn and promote European opportunities, and ready to take responsibility

Practical arrangements

During the period of your voluntary service, you will be provided with accommodation in a shared house with other volunteers, and a monthly allowance for your living expenses. (International volunteers only)

The amount of the monthly allowance is 300 EUR. In addition, we cover travel and accommodation for activities outside of Bansko, and additional food expenses when engaging our volunteers in international activities.

Travel expenses from your home country to Bansko and back will be reimbursed once you arrive in Bansko, within the limit that the European Union has calculated for participants from your country, based on presented original tickets and boarding passes.

If applicable, we will also cover your visa fees, up to 200 EUR per person. Please note that you will need to apply for the visa at the Bulgarian Embassy in your country, and you will need sufficient time to receive it before coming here (the procedure might take around 1 month). We will provide you with an official invitation letter for this purpose.

You will be provided with health insurance through the Henner system, which is working at the European level for all volunteers. In case you have any medical conditions or special needs, please inform us before you come to Bulgaria.

The house

Volunteers will be housed in a shared house in Bansko, along with up to 3 other ESC volunteers. Each person will share a room with another person of the same gender and will have shared access to the kitchen, bathrooms, and common areas.



The team



Bistra Yakimova
Project Manager



Anita Mehomiyska
Mentor



Nace Sapundjiev
Project Coordinator



How to apply?

To apply, please fill in the application form at the following link by September 7th 2026:

<https://tally.so/r/ODxBBM>

***Applications via email won't be considered**



For questions esc@zarika.org

