

Eyfon - European Youth Forum Neumarkt

INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR VOLUNTEERS IN EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS



Let's delve into the future of your continent, explore your background, and foster critical thinking and perspectives for a modern Europe!

About EYFON

EYFON - European Youth Forum, a meeting and dialogue centre at [Forchtenstein Castle \(Europaburg\) in Neumarkt in der Steiermark \(Region of Styria\)](#), was established in March 2018. It is located in a rural area, surrounded by mountains and forest. There are connections to Klagenfurt (approx. 40 min) and Graz (approx. 1,5-2h).

EYFON collaborates with young people/groups from all over Europe, providing a space for the promotion of European values and principles. A key motivation was to seek answers to the challenges currently faced by Europe. We organize weekly seminars where young Europeans discuss the future of the European continent, pose critical questions, and develop perspectives on how to strengthen European citizenship. In partnership with relevant European institutions, we offer an exciting and inspiring program for young people centred around European ideas and ideals. Our focus extends beyond the apparent question of individual nationality versus the European Community; it also includes topics such as tolerance within different regions of Europe, specific cultural characteristics, and diverse approaches to issues like migration. Professional talks, presentations, and workshops are interspersed with enjoyable social activities, cultural excursions, and sports events.

Young people between 16 and 25 are crucial in the context of current and forthcoming political changes – it is about your future, your expectations, and your outlook on life. We want you to fully leverage the potential and countless possibilities of the digital age, internationalization, and migration while recognizing and mitigating any potential risks and dangers. To achieve this goal, a united Europe is essential.

The European Youth Forum Neumarkt contributes to the inter-European dialogue by providing a platform for young people to meet, exchange thoughts and ideas. Experience the spirit of the European community firsthand and find answers to the question: What will Europe's future look like?

Role of EYFON Volunteers

The volunteers support organizing events in EYFON, such as conferences, workshops, and summer camps. They assist in accompanying groups on excursions and free-time activities. They inform about the rules in the castle. They also help in the office, take care of social media, and participate in other publishing activities.

Profile of an EYFON Volunteer: We are seeking a young person who is responsible and motivated to help organize events. We appreciate assistance in photography, social media management, event management, accompanying groups on excursions, and participating in social or sports activities. We are looking for an open-minded, active, initiative-taking person with a specific interest in European topics.

Volunteer Benefits: Proper accommodation in Neumarkt is provided; volunteers will live in a flat. Self-allowance for food and pocket money follows program guidelines.

Training and Support: Volunteers will participate in On-Arrival Training organized by the National Agency. They will have access to the Online Language Support Tool. The organization provides task-related support, supervision, and guidance through experienced staff.

Volunteer's Experience



„The decision to leave my country for three months and embark on this wonderful journey was a little spontaneous. Totally changing my everyday life (with no idea what it's going to be like) is scary, but certainly the most exciting thing I've experienced so far. My goal was to enjoy the small things I would achieve and the friendships I would make; to let go of the fear of the future and to unfold completely in the present.

I remember before taking a plane how surreal this opportunity seemed. This is how I feel now, as the project is already finished. Castle Europaburg really has become a special place for me and all the participants who have been there. The most amazing part of the project was getting to know so many different people. Looking back at the first event in which I took part, I hardly can find words to express the feelings that I experienced. Europaburg castle, filled with participants from different countries sharing the same view about Europe, is the purpose of EYFON. Discussions, getting to know each other and foreign cultures, and learning how to live in peace, even though there are many significant differences, are what our projects stand for. For many people, understanding the term "European" does not come naturally. That is why EYFON aims to spread information about the EU and the importance of the unity of Europe”.

EYFON has hosted a trainee in previous ESC program. Here is a video about this project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBj2ei-STLY>

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Lead Organisation: LOGO jugendmanagement gmbh, Graz, Austria

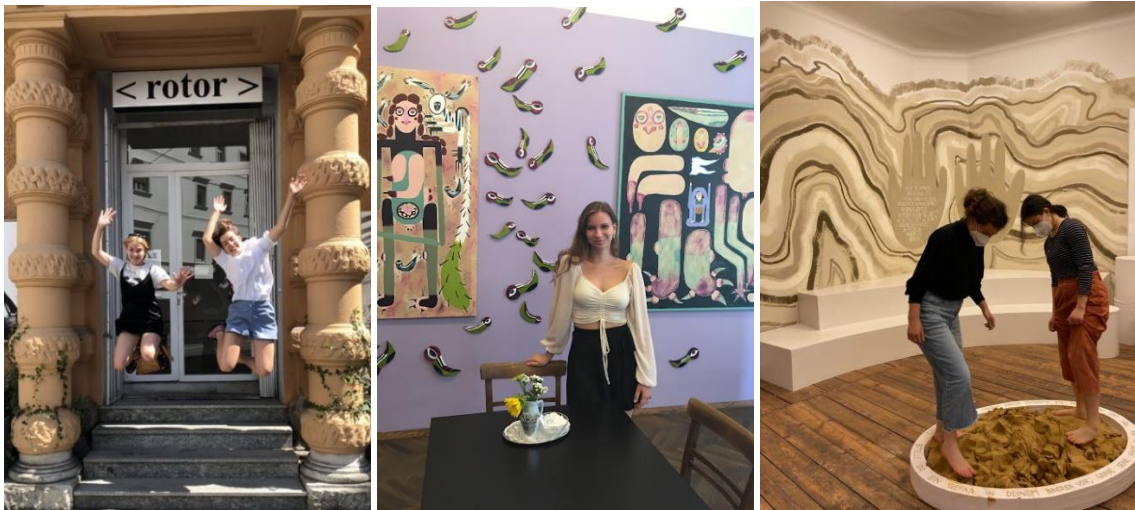
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Contemporary Art Centre < rotor >

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Connecting Art and Society

< rotor >'s program begins with visual arts and centers on artworks that explicitly address the social, political, ecological, and economic questions of the present day. < rotor > showcases contemporary art, fosters crucial discussions, and communicates contemporary art to a broad audience. < rotor > strives to uphold the values of an economy for the common good: human dignity, solidarity, ecological sustainability, social justice, democracy, participation, and transparency.

Volunteers will be integrated into the "daily routine" of < rotor >. Each will have their own tasks and areas of work. There are numerous fields of work for volunteers: project management, including communication with artists and other art institutions; exhibition setup; editorial assistance, including preparing printing materials; and press and public relations.

Office-based work includes all organizational tasks, such as preparing for exhibitions (communication with artists, technicians, coordinating transports, travel arrangements, booking accommodations, etc.), as well as more general tasks like preparing materials for public relations and updating the website.

Visitor service/tours: If the volunteer speaks some German and wishes to improve their language skills, visitor service may be an interesting area of work. Visitors entering < rotor > will receive information about the current program and can be guided through the exhibition if they wish.

Exhibition setup: Setting up an exhibition requires a blend of technical and organizational knowledge, from basic tasks like painting walls to more complex activities like hanging artworks and installing pieces involving sound.

Managing social media: < rotor > volunteers manage Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok accounts. There are many opportunities for ESC Volunteers to learn about the practical aspects of exhibition building, which can be both educational and enjoyable.

< rotor >'s opening hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with office hours from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Events primarily take place in the evenings around 8 p.m. (every 2-4 weeks) and on weekends (every 6-8 weeks). ESC Volunteers work 30-35 hours per week, with the exact working days and hours to be defined together with the ESC Volunteers

Role of the volunteers

Ideally, the volunteer should be between 18-22 years old and interested in cultural exploration. He/she should be a committed person, able to carry out activities autonomously (of course supported by the mentor and the team at each stage of the project) and be open and interested in art, society and communication. We want to give a chance to people who have a strong motivation to explore the cultural field, and who can support us in organisational tasks. This position is not for candidates with a solid education and experience in the arts field, as the role is mainly supportive in administrative and technical tasks.

Volunteer's benefits: The two volunteers will live in a shared apartment with single bedrooms, but shared cooking, washing, laundry, bathroom, and social facilities. The host organization will provide a bicycle in order to provide the mobility of the volunteer. They will receive self-allowance and pocket money according to program guidelines.

Training and Support: Volunteers will participate at On-Arrival Training and Mid-term meeting, organized by the National Agency. Volunteers will be able to take part in a German course and use the Online Language Support Tool. The communication in < rotor > will happen in English and German.

Volunteers will be supported by a task-related and a personal mentor who will help to get part in the daily life of the organization. Regular meetings between the volunteer and the mentor are provided.

Volunteer's experience

A few weeks ago, a group of people with disabilities came for a tour. We had a great time with them, explaining the exhibition and letting them build vessels out of clay. At that moment I realized how important art is for society and how important it is to make art accessible to everyone. When we meet institutions working with refugees or unemployed people, I realize the magic power of art and our organization: they bring people together through artistic performances and work. My work at < rotor > made me realize how I, as a human being, I can contribute to making the society better through art. Not as an artist, but as someone who is promoting it. Art makes people reflect about themselves, about their place in society, about their life, about their values, about the world around them. I now know that I want to be part of the cultural management world, not because art is cool or trendy. I want to make art visible because it is what a society needs.

All the things I learned this year made me grow. A lot. I now love the person I am; I will continue my life being a self-confident woman ready to be fully part of the adult's world ;)



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