

BBA, TIRANA

VOLUNTEERING IN ALBANIA

Infopack



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**



Welcome to the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) Programme !

This guide is designed to provide you with all the essential information to ensure a rewarding and impactful volunteering experience. It serves as a comprehensive resource to help you navigate your journey, understand your responsibilities, and make the most of your time as an ESC volunteer. By carefully following this guide, you can ensure your experience is both fulfilling and aligned with the goals of the program. Please read through it thoroughly and refer back whenever needed during your mobility.



Introduction to the ESC Programme

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) is a flagship initiative of the European Union that provides young people the opportunity to engage in meaningful and structured voluntary service. This program fosters solidarity, cultural exchange, and personal development while addressing pressing societal challenges. ESC volunteers actively contribute to host organizations and local communities, creating a profound and positive impact.

Volunteering with ESC is not just about giving back to the community; it's also about growth. As a volunteer, you will gain practical experience, develop intercultural understanding, and acquire valuable skills that enhance both your personal and professional life. Furthermore, the program emphasizes inclusivity, aiming to involve young people from diverse backgrounds, including those with fewer opportunities.

ESC projects span various areas such as social inclusion, environmental sustainability, education, arts and culture, and youth engagement. By joining this initiative, you become an ambassador of European values, promoting unity, empathy, and cooperation.



Getting to know BBA

Beyond Barriers Association was created **in June 2004 in Tirana**, Albania with the initiative of a group of youngsters with and without disability. BBA is a **non-profit, non-governmental, youth organization** that defends the rights and the interests of the young people. The mission of BBA is **to empower young people in Albania** by promoting active participation, inclusion, equal chances and better quality of life. Through civic education and qualitative youth work for young people and local communities, BBA supports the foundations of building a better society for the present and the future generations. Our moto is: **“We believe in what we do!”**

BBA staff is organizing a variety of activities in **local, national, regional and European level**, including Advocacy and Youth Policy Intervention, research and publications, technical assistance as the Contact point of SALTO SEE for E+ Youth and ESC in Albania, Capacity building activities, Community Development activities, Networking, Art and Creativity, Culture and Sport activities etc.

The focus of the association’s work remains on young people with fewer opportunities, with the aim to offer them a chance for empowerment and to be active citizens of the community where they live. Target groups: youngster with social disadvantages, youngsters with disabilities, youngsters from Roma communities, LGBT+ community and other young people in Albania.



Our History with ESC

Volunteering and solidarity with youngsters is one of the main pillars of BBA work since its creation and volunteers themselves either local or international have been a great asset for development of the organization. BBA was involved in the previous EVS program, **since 2006** and since then we have hosted in Albania **around 300 volunteers** from European countries in **short and long-term projects**.

Also, we have sent **more than 200 young people from Albania** in diverse projects in European organizations being one of the first pioneer of European volunteering in Albania.

Throughout participation in the ESC program, BBA offered to hundreds of youngsters an opportunity for development in personal, social and professional level.





At the office of Beyond Barriers you will usually find around Ana Mullanji (*Executive Director*), Silvia Dervishi (*Programme Manager and Supervisor of ESC*), Irena Topalli (*External Expert*), Joana Rista (*Project Coordinator*), Rafaela Mborja (*ESC Programme Coordinator*), and Roel Rrapi (*Local ESC Coordinator*). For everything formal regarding your ESC project you need to direct to Roel or Rafaela.

For technical issues upon arrival or anything connected with accommodation, Rafaela and Roel will be available to help you. Reimbursement of cost and allowances (food money and pocket money) will be given by Rafaela upon receiving your signature on proper documents. For info regarding your daily tasks and activities, Roel will be there for you :)

BBA has also many local volunteers, and some of the most active ones you will meet during these months, such as: Olta (F), Pamela (F), Stejsi (F), Flori (M), Ergi (M), Denisi (M), Driloni (M), etc. They will also be your mentors around Tirana during the day or for night gatherings, whenever you will need their assistance.

You will get to know Beyond Barriers staff and local volunteers during the first week and the welcoming events :)

**People you will work
with at BBA**



VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME :



KUB FRANCE
📍 Pyramid of Tirana



DURATION : Long-term French volunteers

FREQUENCY : 1x/week; 2-3x/week for special events

CONTEXT: Kub France is a cultural and educational center committed to innovative youth development and cultural exchange, based in Tirana, Albania. It is an initiative created and managed by the French Embassy in Tirana. BBA has established a cooperation agreement, which allows for our ESC volunteers to contribute to their activities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Assist in event organization
- Facilitate VR workshops
- Promote French culture through intercultural events
- Conduct vox-pop interviews on youth issues & EU opportunities
- Create social media content

VOLUNTEER PROFILE :

- French (Intermediate English)
- Interested in youth work, culture, and digital tools
- Outgoing, communicative, and willing to engage in public

LANGUAGE CLASSES

📍 TEN Youth Center

LEARN
LANGUAGES



DURATION : Long-term volunteers

FREQUENCY : 2x/week

CONTEXT: TEN Youth Center, supported by the Municipality of Tirana, is a creative space dedicated to empowering young people. It provides opportunities for youth to explore their talents, especially in the arts, and become active members of the community. The center encourages self-expression, growth, and social engagement. BBA has a cooperation agreement with this center to give the opportunity to our volunteers to give free courses of their native Language and Culture to the children and youth of this center.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Teach your native language using games, role-plays, and cultural topics
- Focus on oral communication and confidence-building
- Create 1 social media post/week to showcase the activities

VOLUNTEER PROFILE :

- Good English skills
- Experience or interest in non-formal education
- Patient, creative, and enthusiastic with kids and youth

EDUCATIVE GREENHOUSES

📍 Special School "Luigj Gurakuqi"
& Hearing Impairment Institute



DURATION : Short-term volunteers

FREQUENCY : 1x or 2x per week

CONTEXT: The Educative Greenhouses Programme is part of BBA's commitment to promoting sustainability, environmental education, and youth engagement through practical, hands-on learning experiences. This initiative aligns with the European Solidarity Corps' priorities for green transition, youth empowerment, and inclusion.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Garden maintenance (watering, planting, harvesting)
- Green skills workshops for youth
- Visual content & awareness campaigns

VOLUNTEER PROFILE :

- Interested in environment and sustainability
- No experience required, training provided
- Energetic and pro-active

POTTERY LAB

📍 Hearing Impairment Institute



DURATION : Short-term volunteers

FREQUENCY : Weekly sessions

CONTEXT: The ART LAB Programme is designed to blend creativity, cultural expression, and youth development. It provides a safe, inclusive space where young people can explore pottery and ceramics, learn new skills, and engage in community-based artistic expression. This programme supports BBA's mission to foster creativity, inclusion, and non-formal education while promoting intercultural exchange.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Assist pottery & ceramics workshops
- Adapt art activities for youth with fewer opportunities
- Document and share outcomes

VOLUNTEER PROFILE :

- Creative, inclusive mindset
- Enthusiastic about art and intercultural learning
- Team player, no experience needed

YOUTH INFO BUS

📍 Around Tirana



DURATION : Long-term / Short-term

FREQUENCY : Flexible – based on activities

CONTEXT: The Mobile Youth Center Programme is an innovative outreach initiative that brings non-formal education, creativity, and youth empowerment directly into local neighborhoods and schools. It aims to reach young people who might not otherwise have access to structured youth work, promoting inclusion, digital innovation, and active citizenship.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Run digital and creativity workshops
- Organize ESC/Erasmus info sessions
- Lead activities for Youth Day, Peace Day, etc.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE :

- Adaptable and proactive
- Interested in youth work and inclusion
- Comfortable with outreach in various communities, skillful with children and youth

SOCIAL ANIMATION (INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES)

📍 Special School & Community Center



DURATION : Long-term / Short-term

FREQUENCY : 2x per week + special events

CONTEXT: Opportunity to work with youth with intellectual disabilities, including Down syndrome and autism, at both a community center and a special school, while being supported by specialized professionals. Volunteers will always be supported by specialized professionals experienced with the target group and will not bear full responsibility for the group on their own.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Sports, music therapy, and dance
- Art and DIY with sensory materials
- Logic games and group activities

VOLUNTEER PROFILE :

- Empathetic and open to working with disabled youth
- Strong communication and patience
- Creative and energetic
- Training and ongoing support provided

SOCIAL ANIMATION (HEARING IMPAIRMENTS)

 Institute for Pupils with Hearing Impairment



DURATION : Long-term / Short-term

FREQUENCY : 2x per week + special events

CONTEXT: This programme provides volunteers with the opportunity to support children and youth with hearing impairments in a local special school setting. Working alongside specialized educators and professionals, volunteers will help facilitate social, educational, and creative activities that promote inclusion, personal development, and intercultural learning.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Assist in educational & social activities
- Co-facilitate inclusive workshops
- Social animation and group activities

VOLUNTEER PROFILE :

- Patient, inclusive, and creative
- Willing to adapt and learn
- Training and mentoring provided
- Sign language skills is a great bonus :)

SUPPORT IN BBA PROJECTS

📍 BBA office + activity venues



DURATION : Long-term volunteers

FREQUENCY : Weekly + special events

CONTEXT: This programme offers volunteers the chance to work closely with BBA's project coordinators and staff across a wide range of local and international initiatives. Volunteers will gain hands-on experience in project management, community engagement, communication, and event organization, while contributing to impactful projects that promote youth empowerment, inclusion, sustainability, and intercultural learning.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Assist coordinators in projects of different topics
- Promote projects on social media
- Co-organize / Co-facilitate activities
- Contribute to administrative tasks, research, logistical and event organization support

VOLUNTEER PROFILE :

- Curious about project management and non-formal education methodologies
- Digital and communication skills
- Creative and dynamic team player
- Pro-active and willing to learn

YOUTH-LED ACTIVITIES

📍 BBA office



DURATION : Long-term / Short-term

FREQUENCY : Flexible

CONTEXT: The Youth-led Activities programme empowers volunteers to take initiative and lead activities designed by and for young people. It provides a platform for volunteers to apply their creativity, leadership, and facilitation skills while promoting non-formal education, intercultural learning, and youth participation. This programme reflects BBA's belief in youth-led development and the importance of giving young people a voice in shaping their learning experiences.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Design and lead your own youth workshops
- Host intercultural events or members events
- Collaborate with youth and share results

VOLUNTEER PROFILE :

- Proactive and motivated
- Strong leadership potential
- Willing to learn facilitation and activity preparation / organization

PROMOTION OF ERASMUS+ AND ESC

📍 BBA office + others



DURATION : Long-term / Short-term

FREQUENCY : All year round

CONTEXT: This programme focuses on increasing awareness and participation in the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes among young people in Albania. Volunteers play a key role in promoting mobility opportunities, fostering intercultural dialogue, and encouraging active youth participation in European initiatives. The programme supports BBA's mission to empower youth through mobility, learning, and civic engagement.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Co-Host info sessions about ESC and Erasmus
- Create posters, flyers, and video testimonials
- Share your personal mobility story

VOLUNTEER PROFILE :

- Public speaking and outreach interest
- Creative and passionate about youth mobility
- Social media skills
- Basic knowledge on E+ and ESC Programmes

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT CREATION

📍 BBA office + remote



DURATION : Long-term / Short-term

FREQUENCY : Flexible, campaign-based

CONTEXT: This programme allows volunteers to play an active role in developing and managing BBA's online presence. By creating engaging digital content, volunteers will help raise awareness of youth opportunities, promote the impact of BBA's initiatives, and inspire broader youth engagement in community activities and European mobility programmes.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Manage BBA's social media
- Create videos, visuals, and storytelling series
- Support outreach with creative formats

VOLUNTEER PROFILE :

- Interested in digital communication
- Creative, autonomous, and team-minded
- Photography/video/editing skills a plus (training provided)

Service Hours; Days off; National Holidays

In accordance with the Law on Volunteering in Albania, you are able to contribute with their service *a maximum of 25 hours weekly, Monday through Friday*, excluding a one-hour lunch break. Working hours may vary depending on the activities planned for each day. However, you will be provided with a detailed schedule of activities at the beginning of your journey to ensure clarity and proper planning.

Every volunteer is obliged to attend all the obligatory activities and events in the schedule.

You are *free on Saturdays and Sundays*, so you can plan anything you would like to do, including traveling to other cities of Albania or even abroad (please, notify the team in such cases, just so that we are aware of your whereabouts in any case).



① LOCATION

You will live and work in Tirana, the heart and capital of Albania, which like all other European metropolises has never-ending movement and energy.



② ROOMS

Rooms for 2 people (same sex rooms can be arranged);
Unlimited wifi :)



③ TIRANA

Tirana is the capital of Albania and also the main economic, social and cultural center of the country. With its clubs, bars, cafes, and taverns, the city is worth discovering by day and night. The hospitality of Albanians is something that will mark your journey not only in Tirana but also all over the country :)



WHERE WILL YOU LIVE?

ACCOMMODATION

CITY CENTER ④

Your apartment is situated near BBA office, in the area called Don Bosko in Tirana, located approximately 20 min by foot from the main square "Sheshi Skenderbe".



APARTMENT ⑤

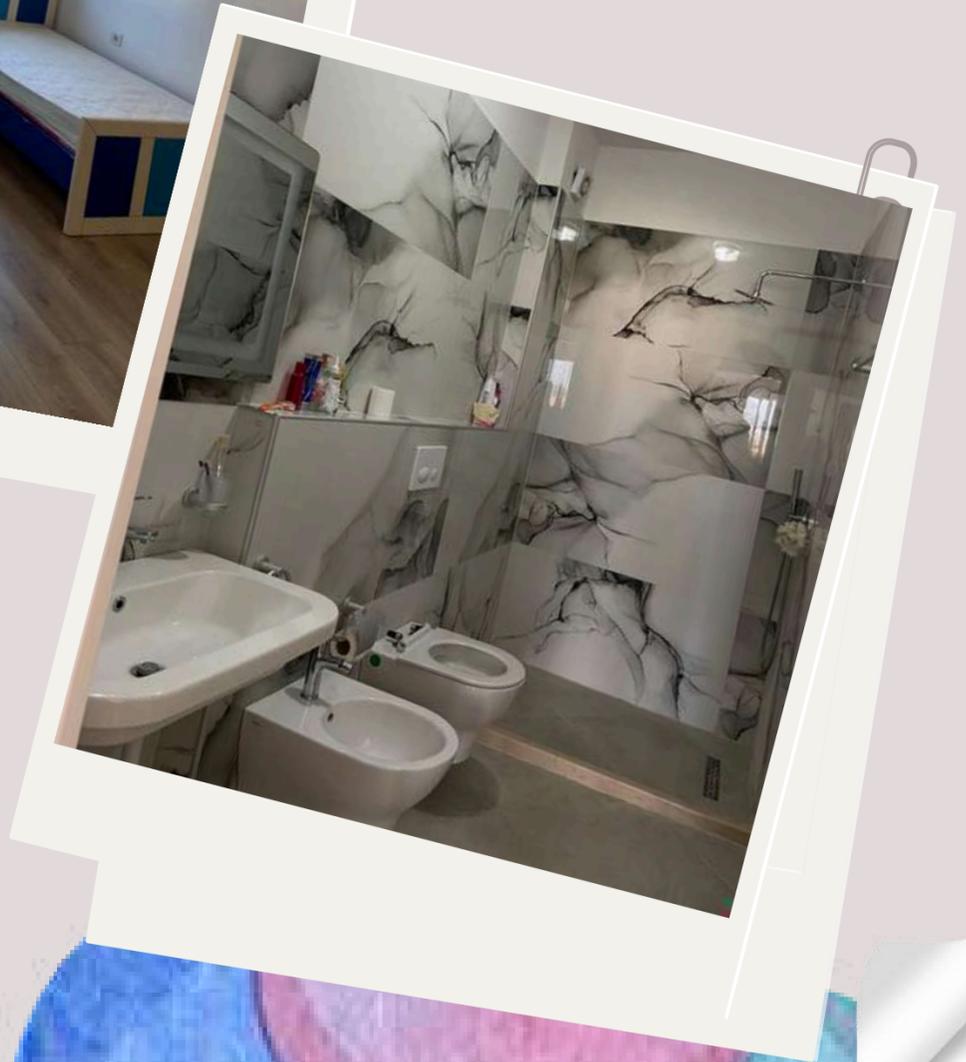
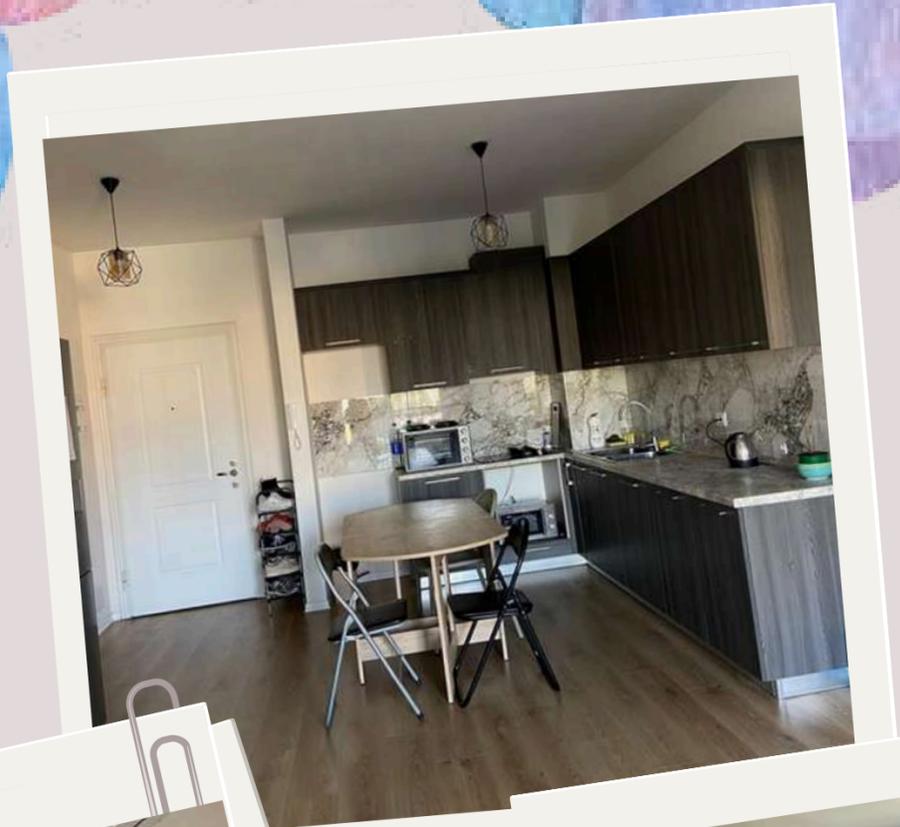
You will be living in one apartment equipped with all the necessary living conditions. We recommend that you bring one more personal towel for yourself :D.



AREA ⑥

The area is very lively, so you will be able to find many markets, shops, bars, banks, exchange offices in the neighborhood.





Health Insurance

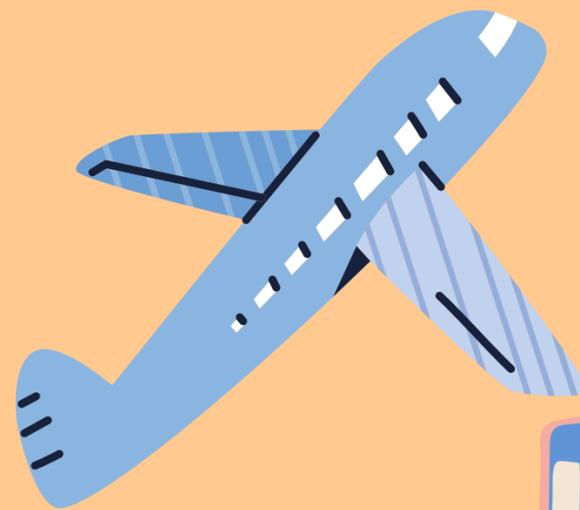
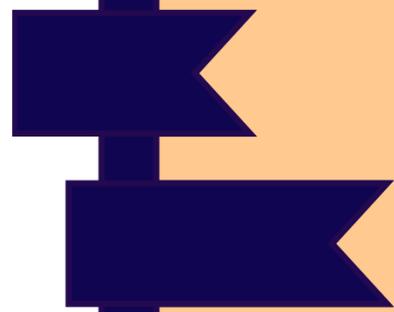


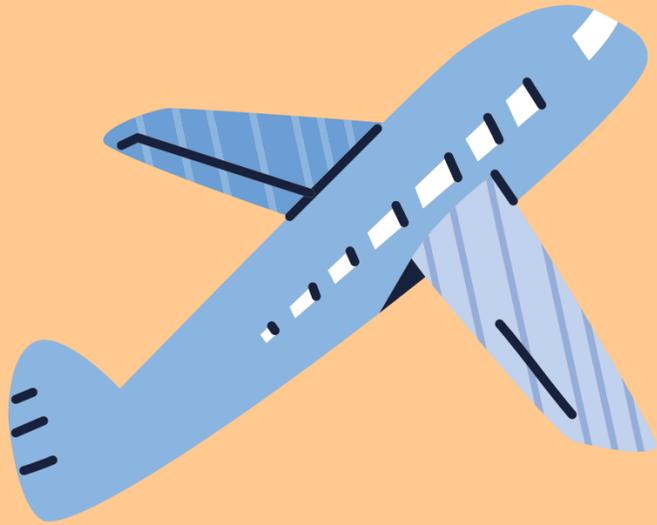
Before starting their ESC journey, every volunteer is provided with free HENNER Assistance insurance. The support organization in the volunteer's home country is responsible for handling the enrollment process. This insurance offers 24/7 global coverage throughout the mobility period, starting from the day the volunteer travels to their project location and extending for an additional two months after the project concludes.

For more detailed information, visit <https://www.henner.com/>

An info-pack with detailed information is also provided in your GD folder :)

Travel Arrangements: Transportation





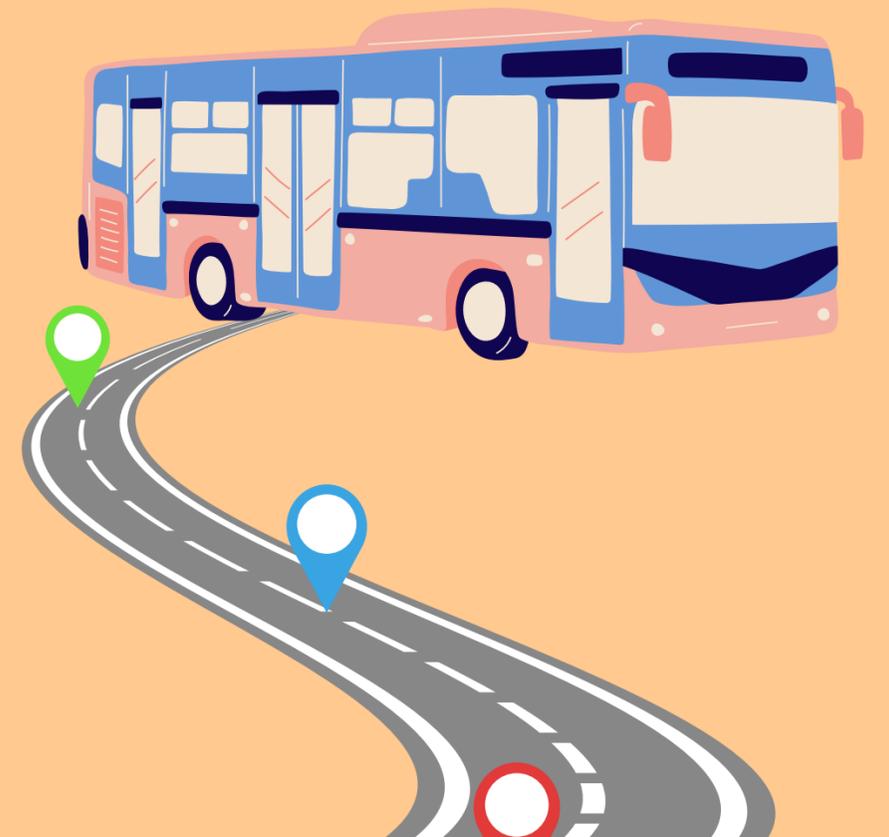
TRANSFER FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE APARTMENT

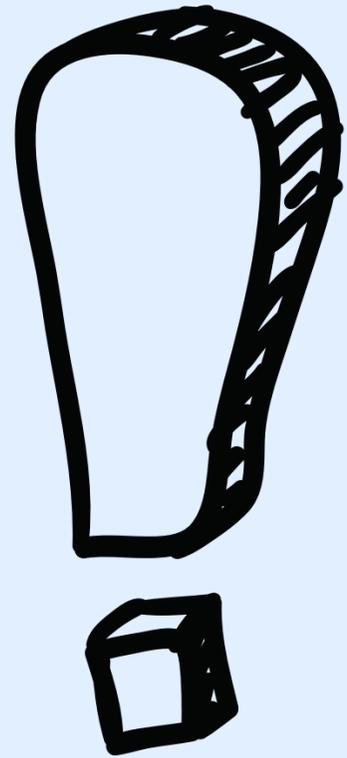
Transportation services from the airport to the apartment are available. We can provide you with the contact information of an electric taxi company. You have the option to book your taxi either via WhatsApp or by directly calling them, and subsequently waiting at the airport for their arrival to pick you up (around 20 minutes). Furthermore, we will share with you the precise location of the apartment, enabling you to provide this information to the taxi driver. Upon your arrival at the apartment, representatives from our organization will be present to assist you.

For any emergency case, send an SMS to Rafaela on this number +355 692707743 :)

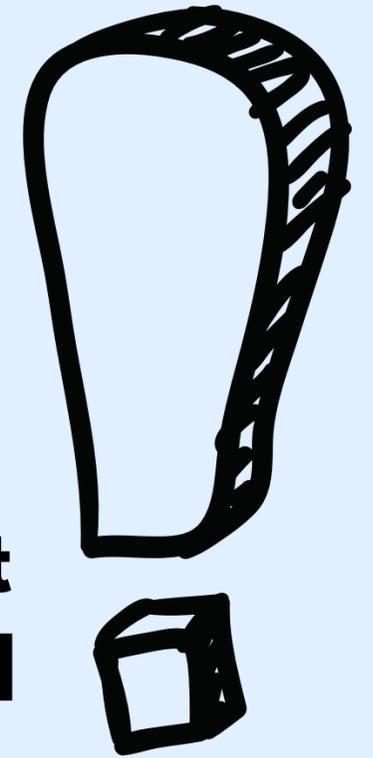
LOCAL TRANSPORT

The public service in the city of Tirana is reliable and widespread. Tirana is a very busy city, and has more than 20 bus lines. All bus stations are located around Tirana Center, easy to spot and reach. You can find public bus from 6 AM-11 PM. It takes from 3-10 minutes to wait in bus stops for the next bus. You can easily use Google Maps to check bus lines and stations :)





Allowances



You will get the allowance for food and pocket money every two weeks, quantified on the basis of the amount necessary to live in dignity in our country. You will need to sign a form for receiving the money. The way you spend it it's up to you and we do not need any bills for your own expenses.

All ESC Volunteers are eligible to receive a Youthpass certificate at the end of their mobility :)

Currency

Albanian currency is called LEKË (ALL) but you can also pay in Euros at some places. Anyway, we recommend that you use Lekë. You can use cash everywhere and card in some places (we recommend bringing mainly cash because the fees for withdrawing cash from your foreign card will cost you a big fee from the ATM service).

You can bring Euros with you and exchange them in Tirana Airport or in the city when when you are here. Keep in mind that you can pay your taxi ride in Euros or ALL but only cash!

You can check the exchange rate here :

https://www.bankofalbania.org/Tregjet/Kursi_zyrtar_i_kembimit/

1 Euro = around 98.15 Lek



Albanian Language Learning



Hello! - **Çkemi!**

How are you? - **Si je?**

I don't speak Albanian -

Nuk flas shqip

Yes! - **Po!**

Please! - **Të lutem!**

No! - **Jo!**

Thank you! - **Faleminderit!**

I'm sorry! - **Më fal!**

Good morning! - **Mirëmëngjes!**

Good afternoon! - **Mirëdita!**

Good evening! - **Mirëmbërëma!**

Good night! - **Natën e mirë!**

Goodbye! - **Mirupafshim!**

*I love you! - **Të dua!**

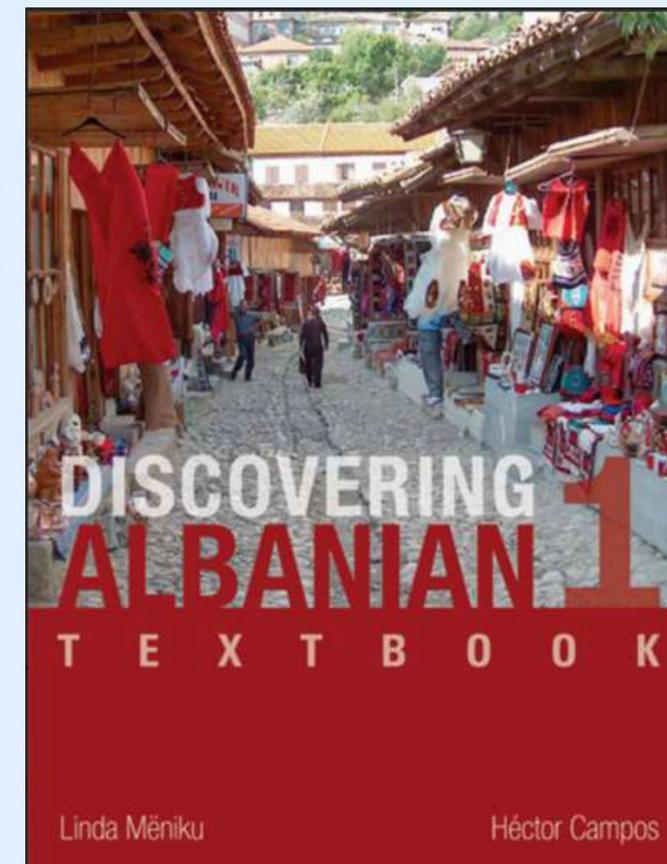


During your mobility in Tirana you will have the chance to learn the basics of the Albanian language. It is a very unique language, since it forms a separate branch of the Indo-European Family and cannot be closely connected with any other Indo-European language.

We have prepared this mini-dictionary for you, just to get you started ;)

If you are interested to study it on your own, we have provided you with a digital book in the GD folder (learning Albanian through English).

Long-term volunteers are entitled to language learning classes, which will be conducted by your Local Coordinator twice a week for the first 2 months and then once a week in the following months of your mobility.



AROUND TIRANA



Skanderbeg Square



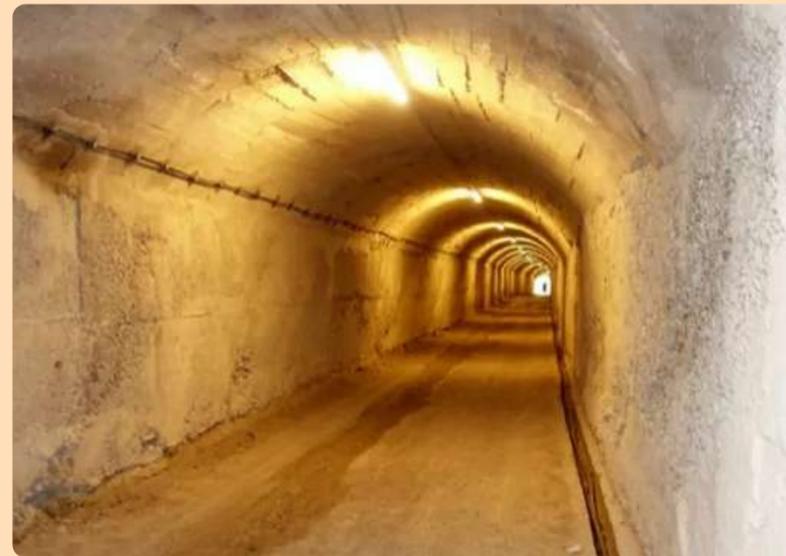
Tirana National History Museum



Et'hem Bej Mosque



Pyramid of Tirana



Bunk'Art Museum



Dajti Ekspres

LET'S GET TO KNOW: FOOD



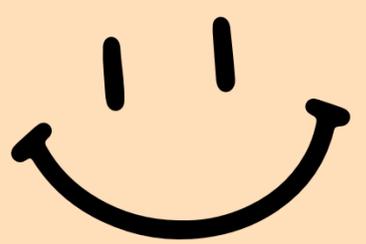
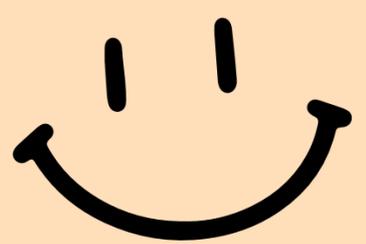
You will find different possibilities of food, but also you will notice the Italian, Greek and Turkish cuisine influence, which you will actually find almost everywhere in Tirana.

If you decide to cook at home during your mobility, you will be shown all markets where you can buy fresh vegetables, meat, and everything you need.

Of course, you are welcome to try out some Albanian traditional food :)

THINGS TO BRING WITH YOU

- Bring your own laptop if you own one!
- Take all medicine you need with you
- Personal items
(Reusable water bottle, hair dryer, slippers)
- Some traditional food/snack/drink/item for the Intercultural Evening are deeply appreciated, but optional :)

GOOD MOOD

POSITIVE ATTITUDE

ENTHUSIASM

Code of Ethics for Volunteers

By joining BBA team as a volunteer, you acknowledge the organization's genuine need for your skills and agree to uphold a code of ethics that reflects the professionalism expected in any workplace. To ensure your service is effective and meaningful, you commit to the following principles:

- ***Demonstrate Responsibility:*** Be punctual, reliable, and conscientious in fulfilling your duties. Accept supervision with grace and a willingness to learn, understanding that it helps you grow and succeed in your role.
- ***Maintain Professional Conduct:*** Carry yourself with dignity, courtesy, and consideration at all times, ensuring your behavior reflects positively on the organization and its mission.
- ***Commit to High-Quality Service:*** Understand that volunteering means offering your time and effort without monetary compensation. Strive to perform your tasks with the same dedication and quality expected of paid staff.
- ***Adopt an Open-Minded Approach:*** Embrace an attitude of open-mindedness and respect for diverse perspectives. Avoid judgment and approach every situation with understanding and empathy.
- ***Be Receptive to Training:*** Show enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. Pay attention during training sessions, and actively seek guidance from your local coordinator to address any challenges or offer suggestions.
- ***Leverage Your Unique Skills:*** Recognize the unique strengths and assets you bring to the table. Use these to enhance and enrich the project, contributing to a collaborative and productive environment.
- ***Honor Your Commitments:*** Fulfill your promises and responsibilities with integrity. Ensure that any agreements you make are clear, achievable, and free from misunderstanding.
- ***Maintain a Professional Attitude:*** Approach your volunteer work with professionalism and dedication. Respect your obligations to the organization, your supervisors, your fellow volunteers, and, most importantly, the individuals and communities who benefit from your efforts.

By adhering to these principles, you contribute not only to the success of the organization but also to your personal growth and development as a committed and impactful volunteer.

Youthpass

The official description is: Youthpass is the recognition instrument developed for the projects realised in the European youth programmes.

Through the Youthpass certificate, participation in such projects can be recognised as an educational experience and a period of non formal and informal learning.

Youthpass foresees a process applied throughout the project life-cycle to support the learning of participants.

It also serves as a strategy that improves the recognition of non formal learning in Europe.

In short, this means that Youthpass is a certificate to track your learning during your project. In the end you can get the certificate and use it, for example, on your resume.



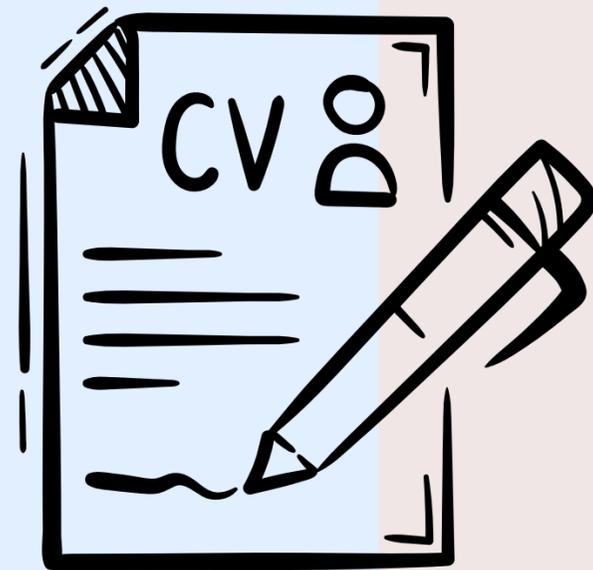
Youthpass



Application

The only requirements for application are a CV and a motivation letter in English. Please send them to our coordinator via email. After this step, you will get notified for arranging an online selection interview.

Good luck! :)





**Your ESC project is not a
touristic trip !
You have responsibilities
and a great opportunity to
learn & grow. We are
always happy to work with
motivated participants.**



Kind reminder :)



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA :)



beyondbarriers.org

Beyond Barriers- Pertej Barrierave

[beyondbarriersngo](https://www.instagram.com/beyondbarriersngo)

Beyond Barriers Association

[@BBA_NGO](https://twitter.com/BBA_NGO)

[@beyondbarriers__](https://www.tiktok.com/@beyondbarriers__)

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We are thrilled to have you on board and look forward to supporting you throughout this transformative journey. Welcome to BBA and good luck with your ESC mobility!

