



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**



Volunteering project in Gyumri, Armenia

September, 2026 – September 2027



Gyumri Youth Initiative Centre (YIC) NGO would like to invite a young person from Germany to participate in the call for next long-term volunteering project at YIC, Gyumri, Armenia from September 2026!

If you are searching for an international experience and keen on becoming a volunteer, please **CONTINUE READING.**

For YOUth, With YOUth, By YOUth



Gyumri Youth Initiative Centre (YIC) is a non-governmental organization established in 2008 by a group of active young people experienced and well-recognized in the field of youth work.

The Mission of YIC is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the youth through a youth-centred approach.

YIC organizes activities for youth 13-30 years old, as well as some initiatives for adult participants. YIC promotes young people's development to reach their fullest potential through meaningful non-formal and informal educational, social and cultural activities. Every year, more than 5000 local and newcomer youth, learn how to participate in local decision-making processes on matters that directly affect them, receive significant volunteering opportunities that promote social cohesion and solidarity, and engage in activities that prepare them for meaningful employment opportunities.

Based on principles of equality and equity, youth activities of YIC are open to any young person living in Armenia. Youth can participate in language clubs, workshops, local and international exchange programs, camps, training courses, study visits, internship opportunities, research studies and advocacy campaigns for adolescents and youth.

The activities of YIC are open to any young person living in Armenia and abroad, irrespective of sex, education, social status, and religious views. Throughout its activities, YIC has served thousands of young people, offering a wide range of opportunities for volunteering, becoming competitive in the labour market, being knowledgeable of their rights, and being responsible and active citizens. YIC's Youth House open youth centres, located across Armenia, host activities based on the methodology and principles of open youth work. The Youth Houses offer young people aged 13-18 years old a wide range of educational and entertainment services to increase their civic activism and employability. The Youth Houses are also a safe place for self-expression, leisure, and socializing with peers.

Since 2017, YIC has been licensed as the Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps Info Centre in Armenia.



The City of Arts and Crafts: Gyumri



Gyumri ([Armenian](#): Գյումրի) is the second largest city in [Armenia](#) and the capital of the [Shirak Province](#) in the northwestern part of the country. It is around 126 km north of the capital [Yerevan](#).

Gyumri is known as the 'city of crafts and arts'. It is the home town of popular Armenian poets. The people of Gyumri (*gyumretsis*) are famous for their sense of humor. Many of them, like Poloz Mukuch and Dzitro Alek are popular folklore characters.

Gyumri is known for its 19th century architecture and [urban constructions](#).

European Volunteering Project



How the ESC project at YIC look like?

As a volunteer you work 30-35 hours a week at YIC office located in the center of Gyumri and in “Youth House” open youth centres in Gyumri, Artik, Armavir, Ejmiatsin and Gavar communities of Armenia.

The activities which are intended to be organized are divided into 3 parts, which meet the objectives of facilitating the artistic expression and creativity among the young people and providing a chance for the intercultural learning and interaction, as well as promoting volunteering and reaching a new level of voluntary work recognition among young people, which can serve to enhance their job-related skills and perspectives for employability.

The activities consist of 3 parts:

- the main activities:

- ✓ involvement and implementation of an on-going project such as “Friday’s café”. The “Friday’s café” is an event held in “Youth House” open youth centres of YIC on the last Friday of each month with a thematic stress in the form of a café, where young people have space to talk to each other, to interact simply and feel the mood of intercultural communication.
- ✓ The volunteer will prepare discussion meetings about his/her country, culture, tradition and volunteering. Volunteer will promote among young people idea of being an active citizen in local community and will share his/her experiences with volunteering. The volunteer will be involved and will assist the on-going projects of the RO.
- ✓ Further intercultural learning is facilitated through the volunteer's engagement in the planning and running of a European club once a week in the youth centres of YIC by presenting European values and culture.

- the secondary activities:

- ✓ Include planning, preparing and running of cultural, sport, educational and creative workshops for children and young people at a risk of social exclusion. The volunteer will prepare workshops on different topics, he/she will have time for preparation. It can be a tournament in some sport, workshops about addictive substances, preventing teen dating

violence, relationships. Topics will depend on the interest and skills of the volunteer. The activities will mainly be held in “Gyumri Youth House” open youth centre once a week for the members, beneficiaries of YIC and for the young people aged 13-30 from Gyumri and Shirak region as well as in other youth centres once a month in each centre.

- ✓ Involvement at a local school once a week to teach the German language to the students with non-formal educational methods and activities.

- **Own initiatives of the volunteer** – after getting acquainted with the local community and learning their needs the volunteer is welcome to propose and implement his/her own initiatives within the scope of the main directions of the RO which include youth policy and community development, employability and entrepreneurship, art and culture. The volunteer receives all necessary support and guidance from the RO for the realization of his/her initiatives.

How do I know if I am a suitable candidate?

- You are between 18 and 30 years old
- You are open-minded, flexible, friendly and communicative
- You are interested in living in and learning a new culture
- Have skills of creativity and you are active
- Possess at least basic English knowledge
- You are willing to propose own activities and implement initiatives within your interests matching the working directions of the organization
- You are committed to taking part in the whole duration of the ESC activity.

4.2 WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Prior to volunteers' arrival, YIC will make arrangements for volunteers' accommodation in a rented apartment (individual or shared with other volunteers). Regardless of the type of accommodation, it will match the requirements of the ESC programme, will have the basic equipment, furniture and utensils and will fit criteria:

- be located in a safe neighbourhood and safe building;
- meet the safe and security requirements outlined in relevant policies of YIC;
- meet the standards of living, relevant to the local context;
- have a single lockable room for each volunteer (with considerations for privacy and safety);
- assure a healthy environment and relations with others living in the same accommodation.

YIC will make the final choice of accommodation, will directly contract the landlord and will be in charge of paying the monthly rent and utilities in a timely manner with relevant proof of expenses.

YIC will also conduct short briefing meetings with the neighbours of the volunteer, to explain the reasons of volunteers' stay and the intercultural specificities. A similar meeting will be held upon arrival of the volunteer, to make the introduction and integration smoother. Additionally, as a part of Project Agreement the volunteer will sign an annex with the accommodation or house rules, which will include an inventory list that the volunteer will be able to use and will be responsible to take care of and return (or replace if

damaged) at the end of deployment.

YIC will provide volunteers with safe and secure sufficient working conditions, compatible with the working conditions of YIC's staff and international volunteers. This will include a separate workstation at YIC's office in Gyumri (with a desk, storage space and computer), access to wifi, printer/scanner, stationery, if needed a camera and additional supplies, access to kitchen, tea/coffee and water.

Additionally, volunteers can work in one of the five "Youth House" Open Youth Centres run by YIC in Gyumri, Artik, Armavir, Ejmiatsin and Gavar especially to carry out workshops or support the activities of youth workers.

All six facilities run by YIC have building evacuation plans and safety kits in place, the local risks are regularly assessed and will be reassessed prior to volunteers' arrival, each facility has a person in charge of safety and security.

The volunteer will work 5 days/30-35 hours a week: Monday to Friday with Saturday and Sunday off as a weekend. Additional to 2 vacation days per month, which can be also taken cumulatively, the volunteer will also be free on Armenian public holidays and own religious holidays (if such are observed).

The working condition will be presented to the volunteer during the pre-departure preparation stage both during online meetings and in written form. YIC will demonstrate necessary flexibility to adjust the workspace to the special needs of the volunteers, within the limits of its capabilities.

The volunteer will receive 90/100 EUR food allowance, money for local transport and Armenian language classes will be organized with a teacher for the whole duration of the project.