

## Hello colleagues and friends!

This is the first number of the Newsletter that Beyond Barriers Organisation will publish each month and that shall be delivered by email, website and through our Facebook group. Inside you may find different information and news about the youth work, volunteerism, legislation about NGO-s, educative and cultural activities that Beyond Barriers organizes, calls for partners, volunteers or participants in different projects and initiatives, picture contests, essays, etc.

The staff of the Newsletter hopes and wishes that this newsletter can not only help the organisation to promote its work, but also give information about the topics we will develop in continuation, to all interested parties.

A special thanks from Beyond Barriers staff, for the conceiving and realizing of this first number goes to our European Volunteers, Adeline, Agata, Goran and Matteo. As well as to our local volunteers, who helped in the translation of all the articles.

## Current projects

### ✓ IPA project: Volunteering values and practice in service of people with disabilities in Albania

This project is planned for the entire year 2011, sponsored by IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) funding, is the financial instrument for the European Union (EU) pre-accession process (delegation of Tirana).

It aims at raising awareness on the rights of people with disabilities, reducing prejudices towards them and supporting volunteering for people with disabilities in Albania. It will consist of 6 volunteer programmes in Tirana and its suburbs:

1. Awareness raising campaign on disability
2. Peer to peer education
3. Personal assistance: access to facilities
4. Language courses for people with disabilities
5. Computer courses for people with disabilities and fewer opportunities
6. Art classes and leisure activities

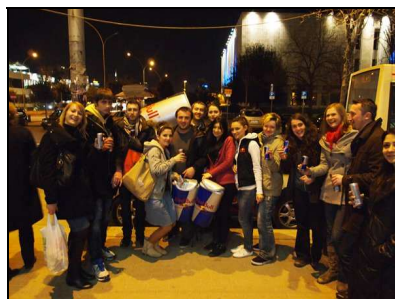
### ✓ Training course

From 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of February, several members of Beyond Barriers participated in a training course to increase their competences on management of a local voluntary service and strategic planning. This training was part of the IPA project. Trainers from SEEYN (BiH), YCC (BiH) and Youth Cultural Centre- Bitola (Macedonia) worked to exchange good practice and transfer knowledge about administrative tools.

### ✓ PBA

Beyond barriers associations hosted a partnership building activity with the title Bridges to Inclusion. Project took place in Durrës from 23<sup>rd</sup> till 1<sup>st</sup> of March and brought together \_\_\_ youth workers, activists, youngsters with different abilities from three different regions of Europe (EU, SEE, Western Europe and Caucasus) coming from Austria, Denmark, Georgia, Greece, Kosovo, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine and Albania who were willing to set up new partnerships within Youth in Action programme from European Union which was financing this project.

The aim of the project was to build strong partnerships and cooperation developing different projects in Action 3.1 and Action 2 supporting projects among experienced organisations and other inexperienced youth organisations from EU, SEE and western Europe and Caucasus which work in disability field.



## Picture of the month

2011 is the European Year of Volunteering. Many events, exhibitions, live demonstrations and other activities will be taking place throughout Europe during the year.

Beyond Barriers is therefore launching a photography contest on the theme «**VOLUNTEERING**» that will last till end of November. Each month a committee of volunteers will choose the «Picture of the month», which will be published in this newsletter, on the website and will be also shown at a final exhibition.

### How to participate?

If you are between 15 and 30 years old and living in Albania, you can send us your picture (max. 2 per month) in JPEG format at the following mail address: [adeline.charnet@beyondbarriers.org](mailto:adeline.charnet@beyondbarriers.org). Include also the date and place where photography was taken and a short description. All the pictures that shall be sent, will be of USE to BBA and we shall have the copyright of using them for other materials, by adding the name of the person who took the photo.

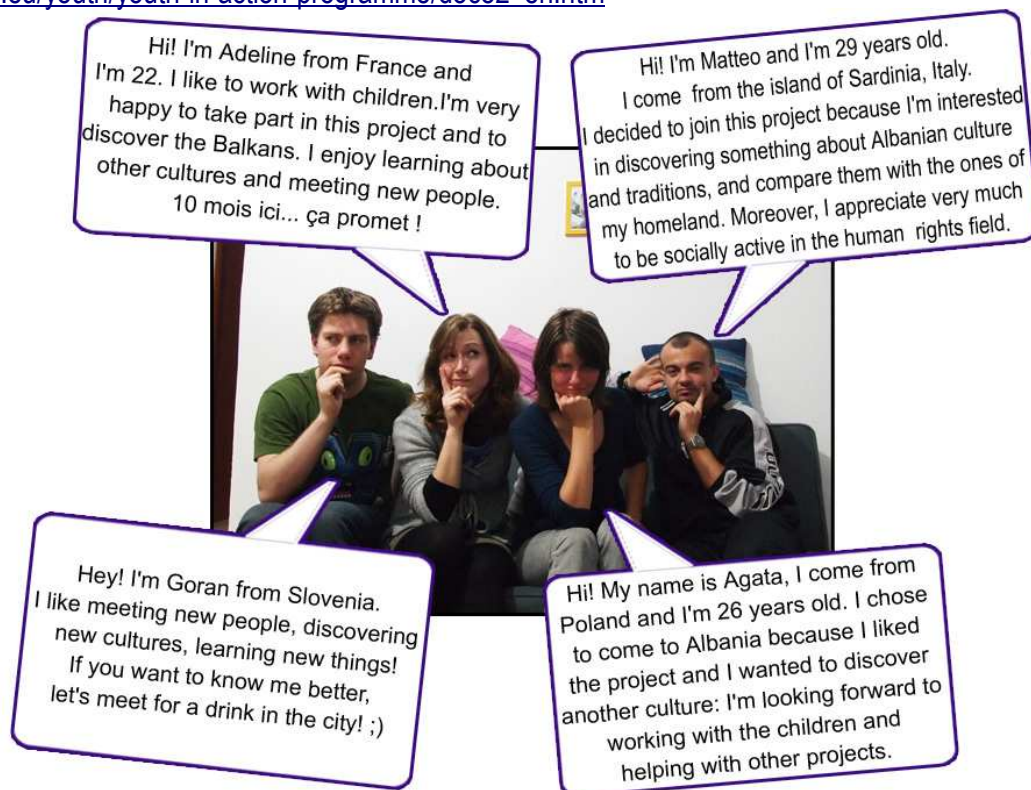
## Voluntarism

If you come to our new office in Tirana, you'll hear different languages. Who are those 4 strange people who are trying to speak Albanian? Agata, Adeline, Goran and Matteo are 4 volunteers from different parts of Europe. They have chosen to do an European Voluntary Service in Tirana, with Beyond Barriers.

What is European Voluntary Service?

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) is a sector of the Youth in Action Programme by the European Commission, addressed to young people between 18 and 30 years old, who are resident in the European Union. It aims to develop solidarity and to promote tolerance among young generations, strengthening active citizenship and social cohesion in EU. Its duration ranges between 2 and 12 months. Here's the official link with all the information regarding EVS:

[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc82\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc82_en.htm)



### Calendar

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2 - 8 March, Training course "Human rights start at home - youth, human rights education and campaigning in the community" held in Durrës  
th  
4 March - World Day of the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation  
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7 March - Teacher's Day  
th  
8 March - international women's day, Mother's Day - International Literacy Day  
th  
14 March - Spring day, official and national holiday  
th  
17 March - Saint Patrick's Day  
th  
20 March - International Day of the Francophonie  
st  
21 March - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

### Top Ten Reasons to Volunteer

1. When you stay home you get too many telemarketing calls.
2. Your family could use a break from you.
3. You might need help yourself some day.
4. It's hard to win a game of solitaire.
5. Soap operas all sound alike.
6. If you don't go out each day, you get old.
7. Why let your boss have all the fun in life?
8. The car needs a workout.
9. Your mom would be proud of you.
10. Who cares about the money?

## You can join us!

You have some spare time and want to use it for some active participation or just have an idea but you don't know how to implement it or just lack of some resources? Come to visit us or contact us at the below written email or phone and become one of our volunteers.

## CONTACTS

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