

“WE BELIEVE IN WHAT WE DO”

BEYOND BARRIERS

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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*Note: Due to space limitations, this report does not reflect the full scope of our activities in 2025. It provides a representative selection of key initiatives and achievements. For a comprehensive overview, please visit our website: www.beyondbarriers.org

Word from Executive Director

Dear friends, partners and colleagues,



Ana Mullanji

Executive Director

2025 has been another meaningful year for Beyond Barriers, a year of growth, new opportunities and, above all, continued commitment to young people and the communities we serve.

Throughout the year, we reached more than 1,100 young people, implemented 65 activities, expanded our work across 11 regions of Albania, and strengthened cooperation with partners in more than 20 countries. Yet, beyond these numbers, what matters most to us is the change created through each opportunity: a young person gaining confidence, developing a new skill, having their voice heard, or becoming more active in their community.

I am especially proud that inclusion remained at the heart of our work. From programmes supporting young people with disabilities, to youth participation, volunteering, digital learning, environmental action and international mobility, we continued creating spaces where young people can learn, participate and lead.

Our European Solidarity Corps activities also expanded beyond Tirana, bringing volunteering opportunities and European cooperation closer to local communities across Albania.

None of this would have been possible without our dedicated team, volunteers, partners, institutions, donors and, most importantly, the young people who continue to inspire our work. As we look ahead, we remain committed to opening opportunities, breaking barriers and building a more inclusive society together.

Ana Mullanji
Executive Director

About BBA

Beyond Barriers Association (BBA) is a non-profit, civil society organization, established in 2004. We work with young people in national, regional and European levels, by promoting inclusion and skills through non formal education. BBA is the Contact Point of Erasmus +YiA and European Solidarity Corps programs of the European Commission, for Albania since 2011 and present day.

Our mission is promoting inclusion, equal chances and better quality of life for all young people and supporting the foundations of building a better society for the present and the future generations.

OUR 7 PILLARS

Our strategic programs that empower young people and build **inclusive**, **innovative** and **fairer** communities.



HUMAN RIGHTS
EDUCATION



INCLUSION AND
DIVERSITY



YOUTH WORK



VOLUNTEERING



DIGITALISATION
AND INNOVATION



YOUTH PARTICIPATION
AND ACTIVE
CITIZENSHIP



EMPLOYABILITY AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Meet Our Team



ANA MULLANJI

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



SILVIA DERVISHI

PROGRAMME
MANAGER



JOANA RISTA

PROJECT
COORDINATOR
(EUROPEAN
PROJECTS)



RAFAELA
MBORJA

ESC PROGRAMME
COORDINATOR



ALESIA DODAJ

PROJECT
COORDINATOR
(LOCAL PROJECTS)



ROEL RAPI

LOCAL
COORDINATOR OF
ESC PROGRAMME



INA TOPI

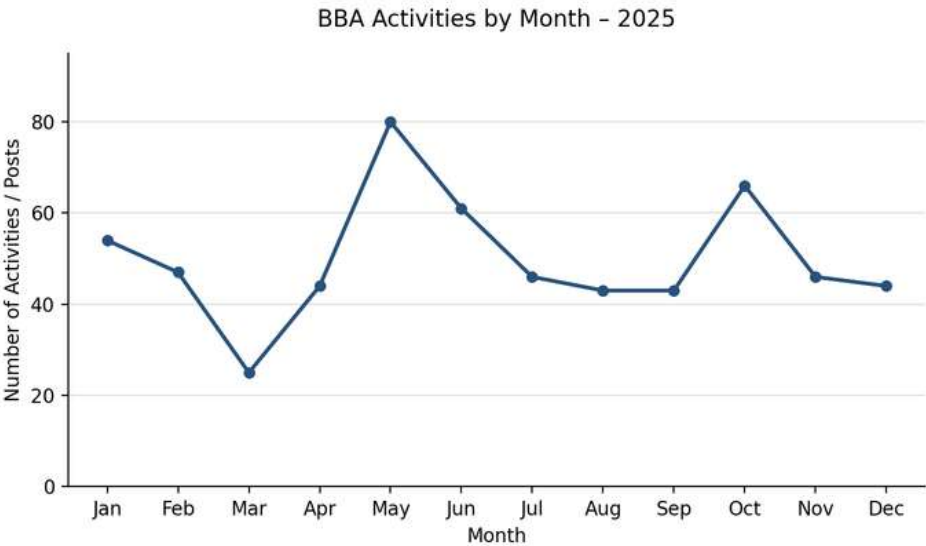
FINANCIAL MANAGER

Highlights

- Activities

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	NATIONAL/LOCAL	INTERNATIONAL
1101+	1041+	60
NO. OF PROJECTS	NO. OF ACTIVITIES	NO. OF ACTIVE ESC PARTNERS
9	65	10

In 2025, BBA reached over 1100 young people through international, national and local activities, with 60 participants joining international opportunities. Across 9 projects, we implemented 65 activities and reached 450,000 + people online.



BBA carried out activities throughout all of 2025, with the busiest periods in spring and autumn. May and October saw the highest levels of activity and engagement, while March marked a quieter period in our programme calendar.

Highlights

- Regional Reach



This map illustrates Beyond Barriers' project partnerships and collaborations across Europe. In 2025, our activities engaged partners in over 20 countries, including key initiatives in Albania, Italy, Greece, Türkiye, Serbia, Montenegro and beyond. This growing regional network strengthens youth cooperation, civic engagement, and inclusive participation across the Western Balkans and the EU.

Highlights

- National Reach



The national map highlights Beyond Barriers' expanded presence across Albania in 2025, reaching young people and local stakeholders in 11 out of 12 regions. This broad geographical reach was mainly enabled through the RYDE and IPA funded projects, which involved cooperation with municipalities, public institutions, NGOs and young people across these areas. Through this collaboration, BBA strengthened its local partnerships and extended activities on civic engagement, youth empowerment, digital skills and environmental awareness beyond the main urban centres.

Highlights

- Finances

*BUDGET USED FOR THE
ACTIVITIES OF BBA
IN 2025:*



€ 322.983
IN EURO

Highlights

• ESC Hosting Role

Total mobility days

4,132

Volunteers hosted in total

85

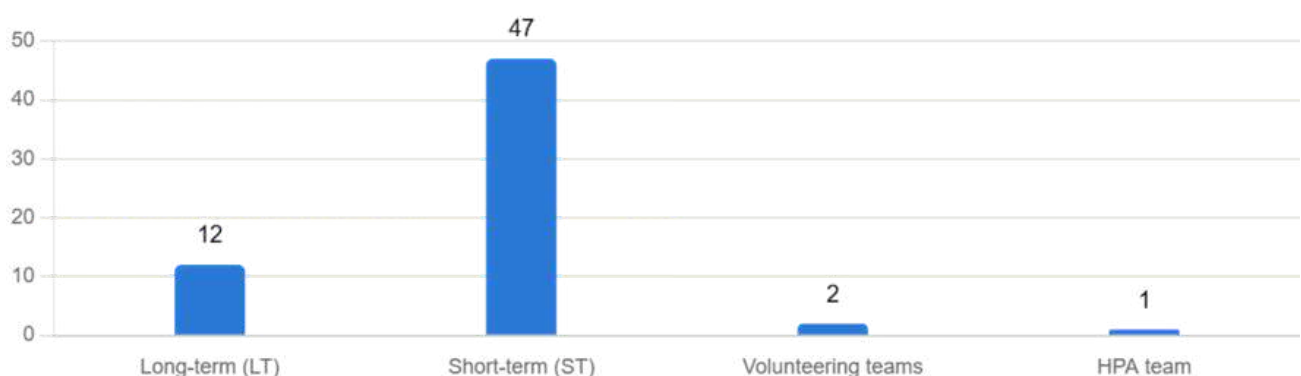
Total mobilities (national)

62

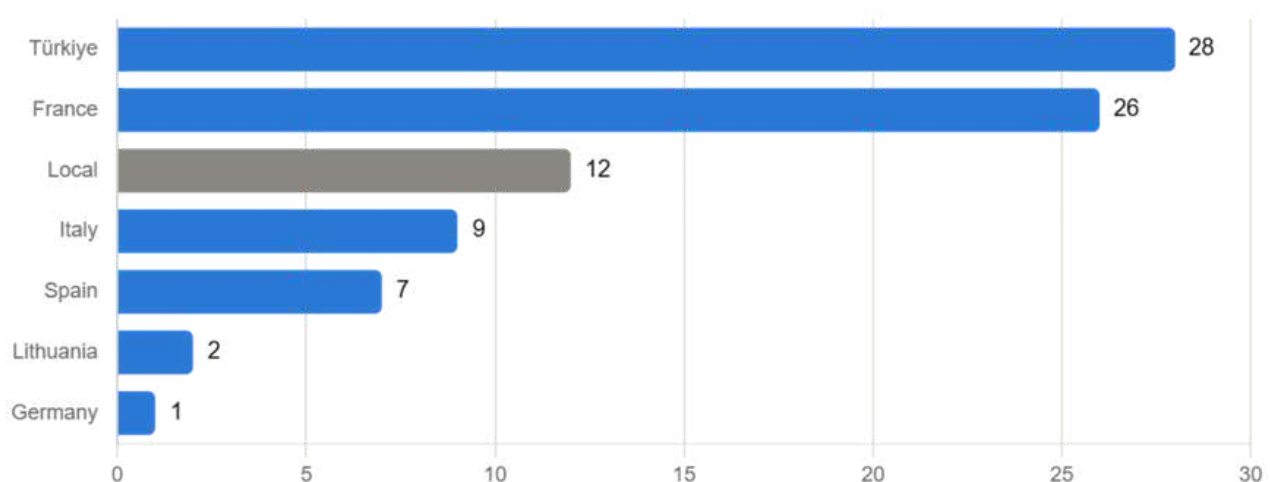
Hosting cities

3

Mobility types — national (Tirana, Korça, Saranda)



Volunteers by nationality — national (85 total)



Volunteers hosted by city

☐ Tirana

Core hosting hub — 54 mobilities across all types

☐ Korça

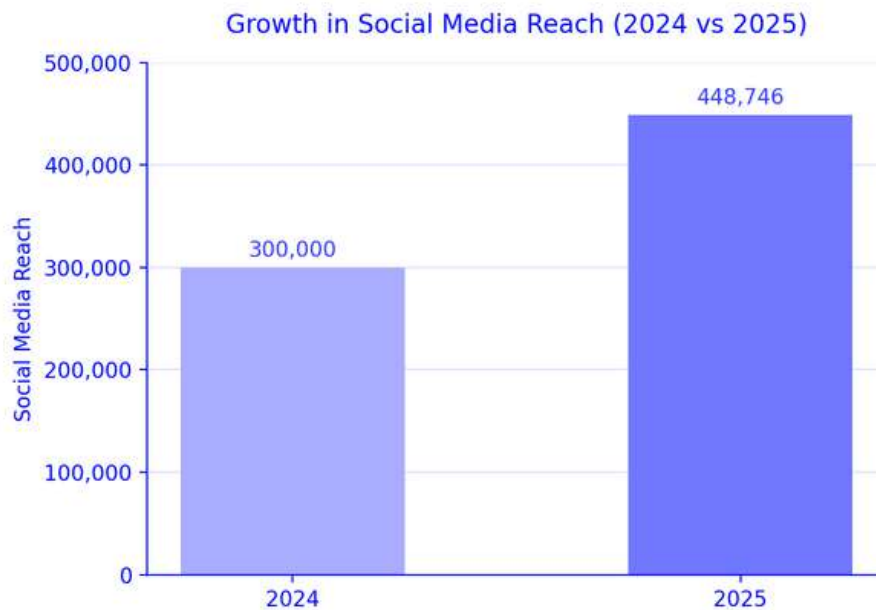
4 short-term volunteers from France

☐ Saranda

4 short-term volunteers from France

Highlights

• Online Reach



Our social media reach continued to grow in 2025, rising from 300,000 in 2024 to nearly 450,000, a year-on-year **increase of almost 50%**. This reflects the sustained strength of our digital presence and the impact of our ongoing **youth-focused campaigns**.

OUR CHANNELS:



Facebook

facebook.com/PertejBarrierave



Instagram

instagram.com/beyondbarriersngo



Website

www.beyondbarriers.org



LinkedIn

linkedin.com/in/beyond-barriers-association-44ab40326



EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



@BBA



The **Final Conference and Fair of Ideas in Athens**, marked the successful conclusion of the Youth Capacity Building, Action, and Responsibility for the Environment (**Youth-CARE**) project, bringing together **101 young people, civil society representatives, and institutional stakeholders** from across the partner countries. The event showcased youth-led environmental initiatives, promoted the exchange of good practices, and highlighted the project's impact in empowering young people to take action for environmental sustainability.

Implemented by a partnership of five organizations and funded by the European Union, **Youth-CARE** reached more than 980 participants through Training of Trainers, local youth trainings, community initiatives, and policy roundtables, with the Final Conference serving as a platform to celebrate achievements and strengthen regional cooperation for youth-led environmental action.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



@BBA



The **CORYA project's final seminar on Citizen Science** was held in Tirana on 4–5 June 2025, gathering 60 participants and surpassing the target of 50. Participants included representatives from the National Agency of Youth, National Agency of Environment, Ministry of Health, and National Agency of Science and Innovation, alongside young researchers, academics, and youth workers.

Experts from Beyond Barriers Association and **Zentrum für Soziale Innovation (ZSI, Austria)**, together with Albanian practitioners from Co-PLAN Institute and Milieukontakt Albania, led youth-friendly sessions on Citizen Science methodologies and real-world examples. Participants engaged in persona design, gallery walks, and project-planning exercises. The event concluded with a **certificate ceremony** for those who completed the CORYA e-learning module on ORRI and Citizen Science.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



@BBA



The exhibition "[Hands That Speak: Art and Heritage in Pottery](#)" marked the conclusion of Art Lab – Heritage in Our Hands, a project implemented by Beyond Barriers Association to empower young people with **hearing impairments** through vocational training in pottery and ceramics while promoting Albanian cultural heritage.

The event showcased **70 handcrafted ceramic pieces** created by 12 participants, alongside the launch of a digital catalogue and the awarding of certificates, celebrating their skills, creativity, and achievements.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



@BBA



The inauguration of the **Interactive Smart Floor** at the **Luigj Gurakuqi Resource Center** in November 2025, attended by representatives of the **Polish Embassy in Albania**, marked the successful completion of this initiative implemented by Beyond Barriers Association with the support of the Polish Aid programme.

The project introduced an **innovative digital learning tool** for children with **intellectual disabilities**, combining movement, play, and education to create a more engaging and inclusive learning environment. The inauguration celebrated the project's contribution to enhancing children's cognitive, physical, and social development through interactive and multisensory learning.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



@BBA



The [Multimedia Hub Final Exhibition](#), held in December 2025, celebrated the achievements of the **Multimedia Hub project** implemented by Beyond Barriers Association with the support of the **Mane Foundation** at the Resource Center for Pupils with Hearing Impairments.

The exhibition showcased the **creative work** of the students, including videos, photography, and graphic design products developed throughout the project. It highlighted the impact of the initiative in strengthening **digital literacy**, **creativity**, and **self-expression**, while promoting inclusion and equal opportunities through accessible digital education.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



@BBA



The **Weekly Community Clean-Up** has become a tradition at Beyond Barriers Association. Every Friday, ESC volunteers, together with young people from the local community, come together to clean public spaces around Tirana while raising awareness about **environmental protection** and **responsible civic engagement**.

What began as a small initiative within the Youth-CARE project has evolved into a lasting practice, passed on from one generation of volunteers to the next. Today, it represents BBA's continued commitment to promoting environmental responsibility, active citizenship, and youth-led community action.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



@BBA



On the 7-12 April 2025, Beyond Barriers Association (BBA) co-hosted the **Interregional Meeting of Contact Points (CPs) and Info Centres (ICs)** in Durrës and Tirana, Albania, in cooperation with SALTO SEE and the Western Balkans CP network. The meeting brought together representatives of CPs, ICs, and National Erasmus+ Offices (NEOs) from SALTO SEE, SALTO EUROMED, and SALTO EECA.

The activity provided a platform for peer learning, networking, and capacity building, aiming to strengthen cooperation and enhance the quality of **Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps (ESC)** programme implementation across regions.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



@BBA



From 11–14 October 2025, Beyond Barriers Association hosted the international youth seminar **"Youth on EU Eastern Enlargement"** in Durrës, bringing together over 50 young people from **Albania, Spain, Denmark, and Georgia**.

Through interactive workshops, intercultural exchange, and dialogue with policymakers, participants explored the role of young people in Albania's and the Western Balkans' EU integration process, focusing on democracy, combating disinformation, and active citizenship. The event was implemented in partnership with **JEF Denmark, JEF Spain, JEF Georgia, and JEF in Albania**, strengthening international cooperation and youth engagement in shaping Europe's future.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



Beyond Barriers Association established a new partnership with House of Europe in France, creating new opportunities for international cooperation and professional development. Through this collaboration, **young interns** from France will undertake three-month placements, during which they will contribute both to the work of BBA and to activities implemented in cooperation with our local partner institutions and community-based programmes. Depending on the focus of their placement, interns will be engaged in different locations.

This partnership strengthens BBA's international network while promoting **intercultural exchange**, practical learning, and cooperation between organizations and local institutions.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



@BBA



Beyond Barriers Association expanded its European Solidarity Corps volunteering programme by launching new **volunteer placements in Korça and Saranda**, further extending its outreach and strengthening its presence in local communities. As part of this expansion, the organization hosted the first group of eight short-term ESC volunteers from France.

Throughout their mobility, the volunteers contributed to a variety of educational, social, environmental and **community-based activities** implemented in collaboration with local partners. Their participation enriched the organization's programmes through intercultural exchange, active community engagement, and the promotion of **European values of solidarity, inclusion and active citizenship**.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



As part of the National Youth Day 2025 celebrations, Beyond Barriers Association participated as a partner in the event **“Roads to Youth 2030”**, organized by the *National Youth Agency and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports* at the Pyramid of Tirana.

BBA engaged young people through an information stand promoting the European Solidarity Corps, a creative ArtLab workshop and an information session on Erasmus+ opportunities in its role as the National Contact Point for the Erasmus+ Youth and ESC programmes in Albania. The event strengthened **outreach to young people** and promoted active participation, international mobility and inclusion.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS



@BBA



In collaboration with the **Municipality of Tirana**, Beyond Barriers' international ESC volunteers were present daily in Skanderbeg Square throughout the summer, supporting the activities of the **Mobile Info Centre**.

Operating from a specially transformed minivan, they assisted passers-by during the hot summer days by providing information, guidance, and basic health-care support, while helping create a welcoming and accessible space for the local community.

EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS

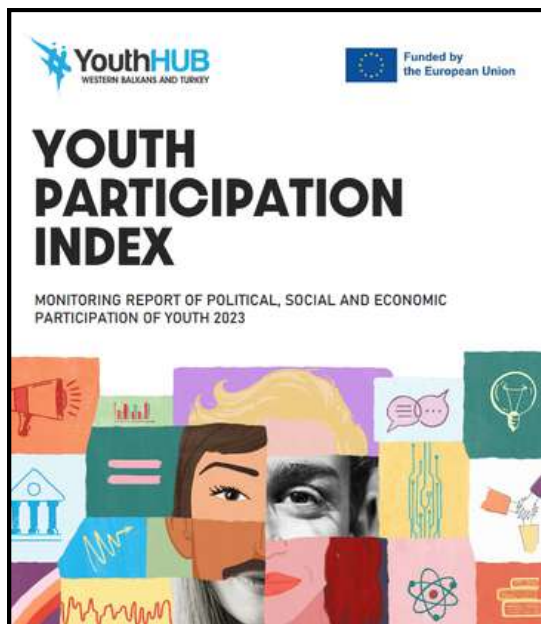


Throughout 2025, BBA sent **60 participants** abroad across **15 international mobility** projects in **12 countries**, including Spain, Germany, Italy, Croatia, Romania, France, Belgium, Serbia, Georgia, Greece, Poland, and Slovenia.

Activities spanned seminars, study visits, youth exchanges, training courses for youth workers, youth conferences; reflecting BBA's continued engagement with European youth networks across themes like digital wellbeing, inclusion, feminism, environmental action and volunteer capacity building.



PUBLICATIONS



This **Regional Index**, developed within the framework of the "Stronger Voices for Better Choices – Youth Hub for the Western Balkans and Turkey" project, is a comprehensive monitoring report analysing the **political**, **economic**, and **social** participation of young people (15–29) across the Western Balkans and Türkiye, including Albania. It highlights persistent challenges such as low youth representation and unemployment, alongside concrete recommendations for improving youth-focused data collection and inclusion in decision-making.

[Youth Participation Index 2023](#)



This **Policy Brief**, developed within the framework of the “Stronger Voices for Better Choices – Youth Hub for the Western Balkans and Turkey” project, is based on the Youth Participation Index for Albania 2023.

It focuses on strengthening and functionalizing **Local Youth Councils** (LYCs) as key mechanisms for youth participation in local decision-making.

[Policy Brief](#)

PUBLICATIONS



This **National Monitoring Report**, presented by Beyond Barriers in collaboration with Partners Albania within the framework of the "Stronger Voices for Better Choices – Youth Hub for the Western Balkans and Turkey" project, analyses the political, social, and economic participation of youth in Albania in 2024.

It shows positive progress in youth employment and education, while identifying persistent challenges such as limited political representation and gender inequalities, offering a data-based tool to inform more inclusive youth policy.

Monitoring Report 2024



This **News Literacy Curriculum**, textbook and accompanying educational materials, including quizzes, were developed within the framework of the MEDIAActive Youth project. The materials are available in Albanian and in the languages of the partner organisations, supporting accessible and inclusive learning on news literacy for young people across the participating countries.

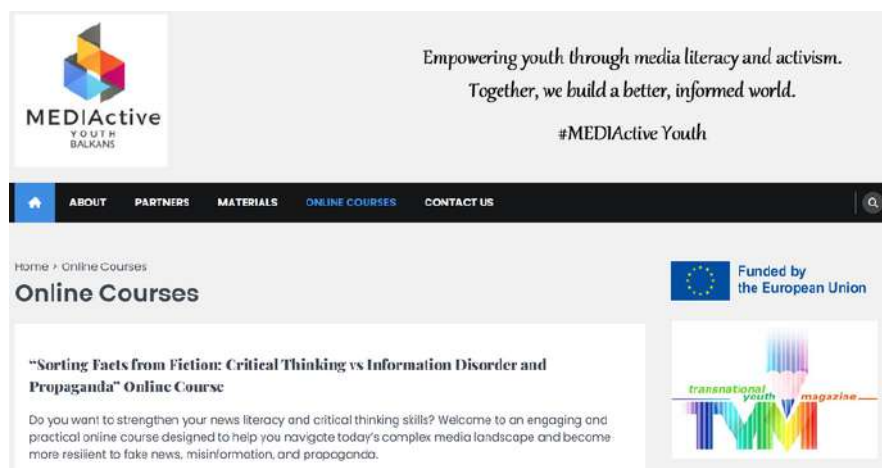
Sorting Facts from Fiction – Textbook and Curriculum

NEW E-LEARNING COURSES



In 2025, BBA developed a **bilingual e-learning course** on Open and Responsible Research and Innovation (ORRI) and Citizen Science within the CORYA project. Through seven lessons, interactive tasks and practical examples, this course on **Aktivizon.al** helps young researchers, youth workers and civil society actors understand and apply inclusive, ethical and participatory research approaches. The course was created under CORYA project, implemented by BBA and ZSI within the EU-funded REINFORCING initiative.

[Find the course here, available in English and Albanian languages](#)



[Find the course here](#)

In 2025, BBA contributed to the development of the **Sorting Facts from Fiction e-learning course**, created within the Erasmus+ project MEDIActive Youth: Informing the Balkans. The course supports young people and youth workers in strengthening critical thinking, news literacy and fact-checking skills, with a focus on misinformation, propaganda, digital media and responsible online participation.

International Projects

STRONGER VOICES FOR BETTER CHOICES- A YOUTH HUB IN THE WESTERN BALKAN AND TURKEY

Stronger Voices for Better Choices – A Youth Hub in the Western Balkans and Türkiye is a regional project implemented by Beyond Barriers Association in Albania to strengthen youth participation in democratic processes through evidence-based advocacy, policy reform, and capacity building of civil society organizations. The project promotes meaningful youth engagement in decision-making by developing the Youth Participation Index (YPI), producing policy recommendations, strengthening Youth Hub networks, and fostering cooperation between young people, civil society, and public institutions at both local and national levels.

ACTIVITIES

During 2025, Beyond Barriers Association organized the national launch of the Youth Participation Index 2023 with 145 participants, facilitated 1 national consultative debate with 22 stakeholders, conducted 5 advocacy meetings involving 62 participants, launched 1 national call for proposals resulting in 8 youth CSOs receiving sub-grants, and implemented the Youth Participation Week awareness campaign, reaching more than 19,000 people across Albania. In total, project activities directly engaged 231 participants, including young people, public institutions, civil society organizations, and local authorities.

- *7 national events implemented*
- *8 youth-led CSOs selected and funded*
- *Youth Participation Week campaign*



PHOTO GALLERY



International Projects

YOUTH CARE

The **Youth Capacity Building, Action, and Responsibility for the Environment** (Youth-CARE) project is a joint effort of five civil society organizations: Beyond Barriers Association (coordinator, Albania), TDM2000 International (Italy), The Door Organization (Albania), ANCE (Greece), and MES (Montenegro). Funded by the European Union, Youth-CARE focuses on empowering young people, especially those living in disadvantaged areas, to understand environmental challenges and actively contribute to environmental protection through non-formal education. By providing essential tools and knowledge, the project helps these youth analyze and address environmental challenges locally and globally.

ACTIVITIES

In 2025, the project delivered 4 national Trainings of Trainers engaging 67 participants, 6 local trainings for young people involving 236 participants, and a series of youth-led initiatives reaching 529 young people across communities, followed by 4 roundtables with 55 participants from youth and institutions, and concluding with 1 regional Final Conference and Fair of Ideas gathering 101 participants, ensuring strong engagement across all levels of implementation.

➤ *4 national TOTs*

➤ *6 Local training*

➤ *4 national roundatbles*

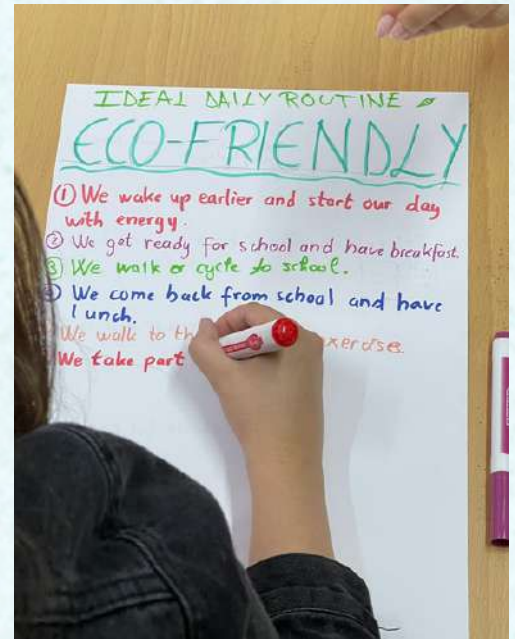
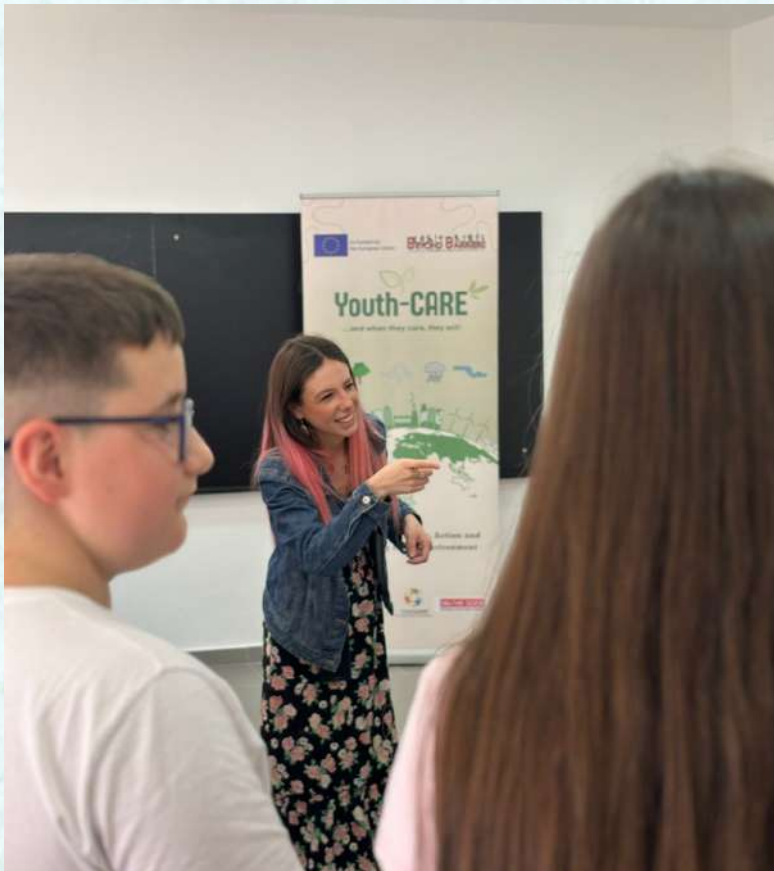


PHOTO GALLERY



International Projects

PERMAYOUTH

PERMAYOUTH: **Sustainable Youth and Permaculture Practices** is a 36-month Erasmus+ project that brings together partners from North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, and Serbia to promote sustainable agriculture and permaculture among young people. Coordinated by IOM North Macedonia, the project combines online learning with local practical activities to build green skills, raise environmental awareness, and strengthen community resilience. Through six virtual training courses, educational booklets, video lessons, and hands-on activities in each country, the project ensures that participants can apply knowledge in real contexts. Continuous dissemination and digital tools support wide outreach and long-term impact, making the results accessible beyond the project duration.

ACTIVITIES

In 2025, Beyond Barriers Association (BBA) hosted the Kick-off Meeting of the PERMAYOUTH – Sustainable Youth and Permaculture Practices project, officially launched on June 6th. Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme and led by IOY – North Macedonia, the meeting brought together partners from Albania, Serbia, and Kosovo to align on project goals, roles, and upcoming activities. It marked the start of a regional effort to promote sustainable agriculture and permaculture practices, while strengthening youth skills, environmental awareness, and community engagement.

The implementation of the rest of the project activities is planned to start in 2026.



International Projects

CORYA

CORYA (“**Cooperative Open & Responsible research on Youth engagement in Albania**”) is a sub-granted project by REINFORCING project’s 1st Incubator Call, within the framework of the Programme “HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01-40”.

The scope of CORYA is to introduce ORRI and Citizen Science to young researchers, strengthen youth engagement in research and innovation, and foster collaboration among key stakeholders in Albania.

The project was implemented within a 1-year duration, September 2024- August 2025, by BBA operating in Albania and Zentrum für Soziale Innovation GmbH – ZSI, operating in Vienna, Austria.

ACTIVITIES

In 2025, CORYA moved from foundation-building to full-scale implementation. A bilingual e-learning module on ORRI and Citizen Science was launched on the Aktivizon.al platform, attracting 131 applications and certifying 50 participants. The project also organised a National Stakeholders Meeting in Tirana with 18 representatives from academia, civil society, business, and public institutions, alongside four university workshops that reached 85 students and academics. CORYA concluded with a two-day Final Seminar on Citizen Science, gathering 60 participants, including representatives of key national institutions, young researchers, academics, and youth workers.

- *50 e-learning graduates*
- *60 Final Seminar participants*
- *85 university students reached*



PHOTO GALLERY



National Projects

RYDE- Voice and Impact Empowering Youth Councils for Community change

Voice and Impact – Empowering Youth Councils for Community Change is a project implemented by Beyond Barriers Association under the Regional Youth Dialogue for Europe (RYDE) programme. The project aims to strengthen youth participation in local decision-making by building the capacities of Local Youth Councils in the municipalities of Erseka, Gjirokastra, Saranda, and Tepelena. Through capacity-building, dialogue with local authorities, and participatory planning, the project empowers young people to advocate for their needs, contribute to local policymaking, and promote inclusive, democratic governance at the municipal level.

ACTIVITIES

During 2025, Beyond Barriers Association organized one ACTivate Bootcamp for 21 youth representatives, facilitated the development of four Local Youth Action Plans based on consultations with over 100 young people and local stakeholders, held three public forums and four advocacy meetings with municipal authorities to promote the adoption of the Action Plans, and implemented a six-month awareness campaign through social media and online communication. Throughout these activities, more than 220 young people, municipal representatives, educators, and community stakeholders participated, contributing to stronger youth engagement and cooperation between local authorities and Youth Councils.

➤ *226 participants*

➤ *8 training/
advocacy/ public
forum*

➤ *4 Action Plans
Developed*



PHOTO GALLERY



National Projects

MEDIAActive Youth

MEDIAActive Youth is an international project dedicated to strengthening media literacy, news literacy, critical thinking, and resilience to disinformation among young people and youth workers across the Western Balkans. Its main objective is to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and practical tools to critically evaluate information, identify misinformation, disinformation, and propaganda, promote responsible media engagement, and encourage active democratic participation. The project is implemented over a two-year period, running from March 2024 to March 2026, and brings together partner organisations from across the Western Balkans to develop innovative educational resources, strengthen the capacities of youth workers, and promote media literacy through regional cooperation and knowledge exchange.

ACTIVITIES

The project focused on the development, testing, and dissemination of its educational outputs. The Teaching Material Pack (TMP) and the MOOC "Sorting Facts from Fiction" were finalized, including 15 structured Moodle lessons enriched with presentations, original videos, quizzes, and practical exercises. A pilot training course was delivered to test the newly developed curriculum and online learning materials, allowing participants to provide feedback before their wider dissemination. At the same time, Albanian young people actively contributed to the Transnational Youth Magazine (TYM) by writing and publishing articles on media literacy, youth participation, democratic values, and current social issues, strengthening their critical thinking, writing, and media production skills.

- *Finalization of the TMP and the MOOC*
- *10 articles written by our youngsters*
- *1 pilot training course*



PHOTO GALLERY



Local Projects

ARTLAB - TRASHEGIMIA NE DUART TONA

Art Lab – Trashëgimia në Duart Tona was implemented by Beyond Barriers Association to preserve and promote Albanian cultural heritage while empowering young people with hearing disabilities through vocational training in pottery and ceramics. The project combined traditional craftsmanship with inclusive education, equipping participants with practical artistic and professional skills, fostering their social inclusion and employability, and creating opportunities for them to contribute to the preservation of Albania's artisanal heritage.

ACTIVITIES

During 2025, the project established and delivered a structured training programme in pottery, ceramics, plaster moulding and decorative techniques for 12 young people with hearing disabilities from the Resource Centre for Deaf Students. More than 25 practical training and mentoring sessions were organized between May and August, followed by the individual production of handcrafted items. The project concluded with the public exhibition "Duart që Flasin: Arti dhe Trashëgimia në Poçeri", where 70 handcrafted ceramic products created by the participants were showcased, alongside the publication of a digital catalogue and the awarding of certificates recognizing the participants' newly acquired professional skills.

➤ *26 training and mentoring sessions*

➤ *12 young people with hearing disabilities*

➤ *Over 70 handcrafted ceramic and artisanal products*



PHOTO GALLERY



Local Projects

MULTIMEDIA HUB

The Multimedia Hub project was implemented from September to December 2025 in Albania by Beyond Barriers Association, with the support of the Mane Foundation, at the Resource Center for Students Who Do Not Hear. The project was designed to address the need for inclusive digital education by creating an accessible space where deaf students could develop multimedia, communication, and creative skills. Its main objective was to empower students through digital literacy, visual storytelling, and responsible online participation, while promoting inclusion and equal opportunities.

To achieve this, the project established and equipped a multimedia hub, delivered 36 hours of training over 12 days, and organized practical workshops, digital content creation sessions, thematic days on digital citizenship, and a final exhibition. In total, 37 students were directly engaged in trainings and activities, while 83 students benefited overall from the hub and materials.

As a result, participants created 8 videos, over 100 photos, and 30 posters, gaining practical skills and confidence to express themselves and participate more actively in society.



83 pupils with hearing impairment benefited



12 trainings delivered



138 audiovisual materials produced by the pupils

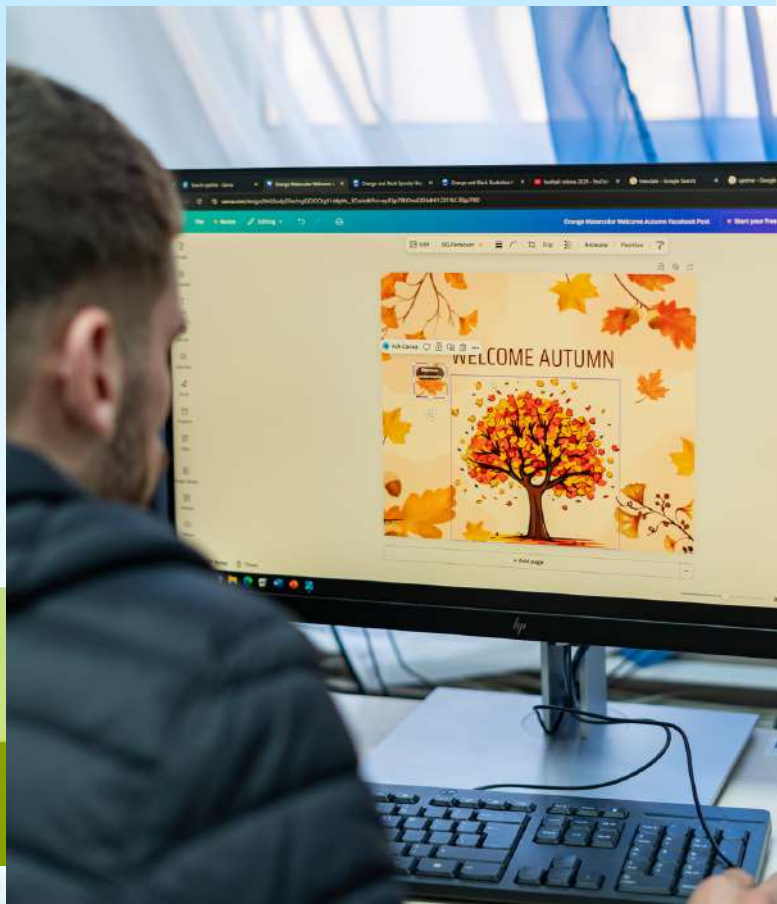


PHOTO GALLERY



Local Projects

INTERACTIVE SMART FLOOR

The Interactive Smart Floor initiative was implemented at the Luigj Gurakuqi Resource Center in Albania by Beyond Barriers Association, with the support of the Polish Embassy in Albania through the Polish Aid programme. The project was designed to respond to the need for more inclusive, engaging, and adaptive learning tools for children with intellectual disabilities. Its main objective was to enhance learning through movement-based and multisensory activities, supporting children's cognitive, physical and social development in an interactive way.

To achieve this, an interactive smart floor was introduced as a digital learning tool, enabling children to learn through play, physical activity, and visual stimulation. The activities focused on combining education and movement, making the learning process more dynamic, accessible and enjoyable.

As a result, children were actively engaged in interactive exercises that improved attention, coordination, and participation, while creating a more motivating and empowering learning environment.



**80 pupils with
intellectual disabilities
benefited**



**7 teachers
trained**



**1 Inaguration
event
implemented**

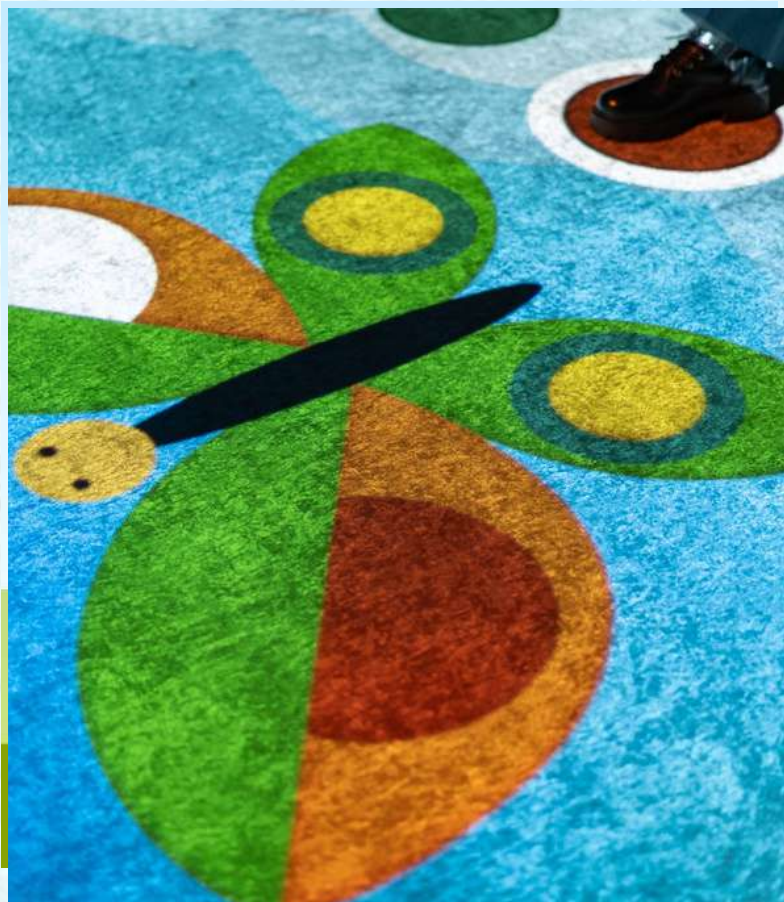
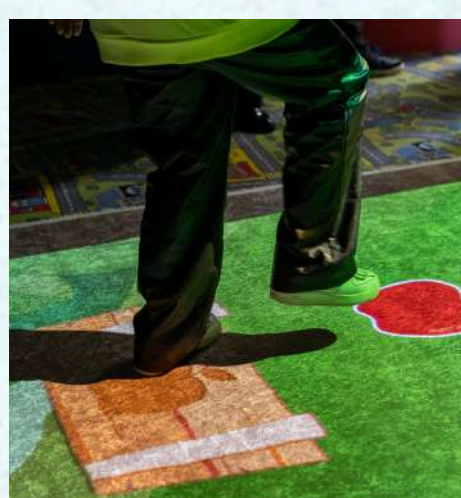


PHOTO GALLERY



Contact Point

ROLE OF THE CONTACT POINT

Beyond Barriers is the Contact Point for Erasmus + and ESC (ex-EVS) programmes in Albania since 2011. As such, BBA has a mission to support organisations and individuals interested in organising projects in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme, youth field, and European Solidarity Corps. To this end, we offer information and advice and run targeted information and training activities with the support of SALTO SEE.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CP ROLE FOR E+ & ESC

Peer-to-Peer Mentoring with Accredited ESC Organizations

Peer-to-peer mentoring supported accredited ESC organizations through regular sessions, experience-sharing, and targeted capacity building, strengthening project management, volunteer support systems, and the overall quality of ESC implementation.

➤ Online, throughout 2025 (repetitive)

➤ 10 organizations

Info Session – Erasmus+ CBY, Get to Know the New Call for 2026

An info session gave organizations a first look at the Erasmus+ 2026 Call for Proposals, covering eligible activities, application procedures, and required documentation to help them prepare stronger KA2 applications.

➤ Tirana (Pyramid of Tirana), 8 December 2025

➤ 31 participants, representing 11 organizations plus university students

Erasmus+ CBY – Writing Qualitative Projects (2026 Guide)

A two-day training strengthened participants' ability to develop and submit Erasmus+ KA2 project applications, covering the application platform, budgeting, documentation, and best practices from previously funded projects.

➤ Tirana (Misto Treska Library), 11–12 December 2025

➤ 15 participants representing 10 organizations from 6 cities across Albania

Contact Point

Celebrating Erasmus Days! – Online Campaign and Open Day

An online awareness campaign combined with an Open Day event connected young people with Erasmus+ and ESC alumni and international volunteers, who shared their experiences and offered guidance on how to participate.

- Tirana (BBA office and Europe House) / online, 16–17 October 2025
- 63 participants across 2 onsite activities; 1,000+ accounts reached online

E+ & ESC Open Consultation Days

Weekly one-to-one consultations gave youth workers, project coordinators, and institutional representatives tailored guidance across all phases of Erasmus+ and ESC project implementation.

- Tirana / Korçë / Sarandë / online, throughout 2025 (repetitive)
- 40+ beneficiaries over the course of the year

Online Promotion of E+ and ESC

A sustained social media and media campaign, led by ESC volunteers, shared testimonials and practical information to raise awareness of Erasmus+ and ESC opportunities, with a focus on rural communities.

- Online, throughout 2025 (repetitive)
- 70,000+ views across website, Facebook, and Instagram

Prepare to Succeed – Erasmus+ KA2 Deep-Dive Training

BBA supported SALTO SEE's regional training for Western Balkan organizations on the Erasmus+ KA2 framework, application procedures, budgeting, and partnership-building.

- Online, 5–6 February 2025
- 40 participants

Interregional Meeting of CPs and Info-Centres

BBA co-hosted a regional gathering of Contact Points, Info Centres, and National Erasmus+ Offices for peer learning, study visits, and dialogue on strengthening Erasmus+ and ESC implementation across regions.

- Durrës and Tirana, 7–12 April 2025
- 30 participants (CPs, ICs, and National Erasmus+ Offices from the Western Balkans, South Mediterranean, and Eastern Europe/Caucasus)

Promotional Activities in Educational Institutions

Info-sessions in high schools and universities featured ESC volunteers sharing personal experiences to raise awareness of Erasmus+ and ESC opportunities among students.

- Tirana, Korçë, and Sarandë (schools and universities), throughout 2025 (repetitive)
- 100+ high school and university students



PHOTO GALLERY



ESC Hosting Role

Volunteering that strengthens communities

In 2025, Beyond Barriers Association hosted 85 European Solidarity Corps volunteers through long-term, short-term and team volunteering activities. Supported by BBA coordinators, mentors and local professionals, volunteers contributed to educational, social, environmental and community programmes.

Their participation brought new ideas, energy and intercultural perspectives to BBA's work, while providing meaningful opportunities to learn, develop skills and engage with the local community.

Youth work, non-formal education and intercultural learning

In cooperation with local partners, including TEN Center and the Mobile Youth Centre, volunteers facilitated language and cultural sessions, creative workshops, educational games, discussions and teamwork activities.

They were also encouraged to develop initiatives based on their interests and skills. Through intercultural evenings and presentations, local young people discovered new cultures and traditions, while volunteers gained a deeper understanding of Albanian society.

Inclusive education and activities with children and young people with disabilities

A key part of the programme focused on supporting children and young people with disabilities.

At the “Luigj Gurakuqi” Resource Centre, volunteers assisted with educational games, creative workshops, sports, gardening, greenhouse activities and interactive learning through the SmartFloor.

At the Resource Centre for Pupils with Hearing Impairments, they supported pottery and moulding workshops linked to ArtLab, alongside recreational, artistic and social activities. Working with specialised staff, volunteers helped create inclusive spaces where children could express themselves, develop skills and participate confidently

Communication and promotion of European opportunities

Volunteers documented and promoted BBA's work through photographs, videos, interviews, reels and social media content, sharing their experiences and reflections on volunteering in Albania. They also joined school and university visits, information sessions, Erasmus Days activities and public events. By sharing personal stories, they helped make Erasmus+ and ESC opportunities more accessible and relatable to Albanian young people.

ESC Hosting Role

EXPANDING ESC VOLUNTEERING ACROSS ALBANIA

In 2025, BBA expanded its European Solidarity Corps accreditation beyond Tirana, receiving accreditation to host volunteers in Korça, Saranda, Tepelena and Gjirokastra. This expansion brings European opportunities closer to communities outside the capital and enables volunteers to contribute to local initiatives while experiencing Albania's cultural and social diversity.

First ESC mobilities in Korça and Saranda

BBA hosted its first ESC mobilities in Korça and Saranda, involving eight short-term volunteers from France. In cooperation with local partners, they supported educational, social, environmental and intercultural activities with children and young people.

These mobilities demonstrated that quality volunteering activities can be successfully implemented outside Tirana and created a strong foundation for future placements in Tepelena and Gjirokastra.

ILIVE – Inclusive Learning in Volunteering Experiences (VTHPA)

In 2025, BBA hosted an international volunteering team in Tirana through the ILIVE project, under the Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas programme.

Volunteers from Albania, Spain and Türkiye explored volunteering, sport and the inclusion of young people with disabilities through workshops, intercultural activities and practical volunteering experiences. The project promoted more inclusive sports organisations and highlighted the diverse roles volunteers can play, including communication, outreach, event organisation and logistical support.

The contribution of our volunteers

ESC volunteers strengthened BBA's capacity to support children, young people and local institutions, while bringing creativity, diversity and intercultural learning into its programmes.

Through their involvement, volunteers developed skills in communication, teamwork, leadership, adaptability, activity planning and non-formal education. Together, they transformed European solidarity into meaningful local action and became an important part of BBA's work throughout 2025. A heartfelt thank you to all 85 of our volunteers!



PHOTO GALLERY



ESC Sending Role

MILJANA KAJO

Title of the project: Change Support Volunteer

Duration: 23/06/2025 – 22/04/2026

Location: Brescia, Italy

Host: CSV Brescia ETS

Activities description: Miljana supported the daily activities of CSV Brescia, contributing to communication campaigns, social media content, and the promotion of volunteering in schools, youth centres, and public events. She also assisted with the local volunteering information desk, supported the development of European and local projects, and participated in community workshops and events promoting inclusion, intercultural dialogue, youth participation, and sustainability.

SINDI BEQIRAJ

Title of the project: Volunteering with S&G

Duration: 21/07/2025 – 20/09/2025

Location: Ankara, Türkiye

Host: System and Generation Association (S&G)

Activities description: Sindi supported the organisation's daily work through project development, event preparation, communication, social media management, and networking activities. She also contributed to community initiatives involving refugees, people with disabilities, children, and schools, while promoting environmental awareness.

EMI KALLUCI

Title of the project: Support Intercultural Cohesion and Local Development in French Guiana

Duration: 11/11/2025 – 11/12/2025

Location: Cayenne, French Guiana

Host: Peupl'en Harmonie

Activities description: Emi supported the preparation and organisation of community events and activities, contributed to social media management and promotional material creation, and helped promote European programmes. She also co-facilitated English lessons for local young people, contributing to intercultural learning and community engagement.



PHOTO GALLERY



A close-up photograph of a white ceramic plate with a red heart-shaped cookie in the center. In the blurred background, there are several colorful cookie cutters, including one with a blue and yellow pattern and another with a purple and pink pattern.

THANK YOU!



RRUGA 'HYSNI GERBOLLI', PALLATET ARDARO, HYRJA 1, KATI 1



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