



**“What is the essence of life?
To serve others and to do good.”**

Aristotle

» **B**ased on the high youth NEET rates in the participating countries (BIH: 19.7%, MK: 39.7%, GR:26.7%, CY:19.5% -2014) and the alarmingly high rates in youth unemployment, the TRAINVOL project aims to develop an alternative mechanism promoting skills development and labor market inclusion for young people (especially vulnerable groups) through volunteerism, following a sustainable and replicable cascading model. The project is largely focused on providing additional opportunities for young people with fewer opportunities to 1) feel part of their communities by engaging in civic life and driving positive impact in the society, and 2) develop their skills, knowledge and competences through training in volunteering and participation in voluntary activities, contributing that way to their personal and professional development and employability.

“Volunteerism: the principle of donating time and energy for the benefit of other people in the community as a social responsibility rather than for any financial reward.”

Collins English Dictionary

» **T**he adoption of volunteerism as a mean to achieve the project’s aims is based on the fact that volunteering is an important form of investment in human capital, while it plays a key role, among other things, in the development of transversal skills, the acquisition of new vocational skills and in the promotion of civic and social engagement and participation, as well as employability.

» **T**o achieve the project’s objectives, the consortium aims to develop high quality training materials to build the capacities of youth workers / leaders to successfully design, manage and implement volunteering programmes, as well as engage, train and retain skilled volunteers. Furthermore, networking activities are planned with the aim of promoting volunteering among youth and youth organisations and fostering international cooperation among the latter.

The Project is funded by the European Commission and will run for 18 months (February 2017 – August 2018).

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.”

Muhammad Ali

Specific objectives of the project:

- Enhance the management, governance, innovation capacity and internationalisation of youth organisations active in the volunteering field;
- Build the capacities of youth organisations and youth workers and promote high quality and effectiveness of youth work in the volunteering field;
- Improve the recognition of youth work, non-formal learning and volunteering through awareness raising and high quality service provision;
- Promote volunteering as a way of combining (non-formal and informal) learning and capacity building with civic engagement, active citizenship and social inclusion;
- Assist young people to engage, volunteer and drive positive social change in their communities;
- Build the capacities and certify youth workers of youth organisations implementing (or wishing to implement) voluntary activities, to enable them to efficiently engage, orientate, train and manage young people who wish to participate in organised volunteering activities and facilitate their smooth integration into volunteering programmes;
- Increase volunteer’s motivation and confidence in their role;
- Increase engagement, recruitment and retention of skilled young volunteers;
- Promote international cooperation, networking, and peer-learning, fostering cross-border synergies between youth organisations.

