

News Letter AUDELE - CUIC, December 2009

Maria Muñoz, Volunteers service in Uruguay.

“During the month of November, I served as a volunteer at Casa Joven, a youth home in Montevideo. Although I was born and raised in Uruguay, I gained much more from this experience than I ever did while living in the country. The people are friendly, welcoming, and proud of their culture. Working in the youth home opened my eyes to not only understand the lives of kids growing up there but how accepting and appreciative the people of Uruguay truly are. During my stay, I was able to travel to other parts of the country such as Minas, Piriapolis, and Colonia to name a few. Although they are all very different they continue to prove that Uruguay is unique and appealing. The adolescents that I worked with re-introduced me to the way of life for teenagers and at the same time, taught me that although they lead a very simple life, they are happy with every aspect of it. I enjoyed every day I spent with them and all they had to offer me. Even though they may not have realized or intended on it, they taught me more than I had anticipated learning prior to my trip. This experience made me proud to be from such a small yet beautiful country”.



Melisa Marrero, EVS volunteer in Slovakia

“Context of work: In Klokocov we are working in a small village, which does not provide the children with spaces of creation, free spaces where they can propose ideas and where they can speak about their needs.

With the “Klub” in the afternoons the idea is to promote personal development, encounter with personal interests while building their own personality, working as a part of a group where the variety is a plus and the differences make valuable results.

Focuses on the procedures and different ways of getting to our objectives and not only in the results themselves. Sharing materials and learning "in the way" how to take care of physical and abstract resources.

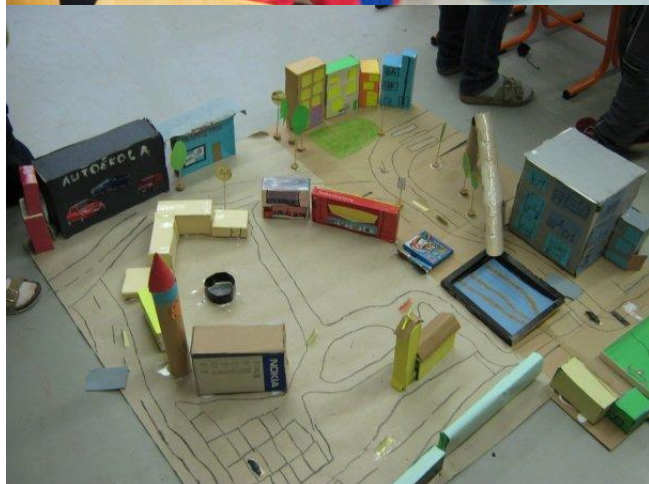
Cultural exchange in the Klub is another main part of the project, and day by day we have to solve and move forward having into account our language barrier.

Speaking a different language from the children's one give us the chance to improve our Slovak skills and also open a new door for them, we present our countries to them and share different kind of traditions and ideas. Some of the usual questions are: How is the weather in your country? Do you also have Christmas? How is the name of Santa Claus in your country? Is it cold? What is the typical food? What about the music? Do you have Super Star? And football? Do you have beaches?

This help to increase their tolerance towards people from outside their country.

They make great effort to communicate with us and we can understand the majority of the things, also of course I have always my Spanish- Slovak dictionary with me!

Speaking in English and being in contact with people that speak it is a way of making them open to foreigners, losing the fear of speaking in English, making them practice without being aware of that.



WE BELIEVE THAT: "YOU CAN BE WHAT YOU CAN IMAGINE"

If you can think about something you can make it true, could be difficult, could be hard or even could take some years but it is important that we learn that we have to fight for the things we believe are important in life, for the person we want to be and the only limit is ourselves. Believe in your self is the first step".