

The final issue

# THE UNITED FITTERS

## OF



1-30 AUGUST

*This is the magazine of **Youth Summer Fest**: an initiative in Youth Centres UP 2, an international project hosted by Timis County Youth Foundation (FITT), that brings together volunteers from the world, eager to create spaces and activities for the young people of Timisoara and Lugoj.*

## **WHAT WILL YOU FIND IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE?**

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- Why did the volunteers choose our festival?
- How was the team building?

### **2. Festival events**

### **3. Grassroots experiences**

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- Intercultural nights (fragments by Nisanur Epli, Kiki Rewinkel & Firdaows Chesamae)
- Freeze mob: a manifestation of youth (by Kiki Rewinkel)
- The water party (by Lucas Garcia Manoso)

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- Towards youth integration and thought development (by Hany George)
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# **This is how Youth Summer Fest started**

Timis County Youth Foundation (FITT) runs 8 youth centres\* in Timisoara and one in Lugoj.

*\*Youth centres are safe spaces for young people, where they can participate or even organise educational, cultural, sports or leisure activities.*

To celebrate the European Year of Youth and to offer a programme of activities in preparation for Timisoara's bid to become the European Capital of Culture, FITT organised an international festival throughout August with volunteers from 23 countries that did activities for the public in youth centres and other venues in Timisoara and Lugoj.

## **Why did the volunteers choose our festival?**

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'After applying for many projects and finding out various details, Youth Summer Fest was one of the most remarkable projects as it brings together about 200 people from different countries and cultures and they will prepare activities for the locals. I thought this concept would be a great plan for the summer.' (Fatma Buyukcoskun, The road to Romania: how and why I applied to Youth Summer Fest, article in the first issue of Youth Summer Fest magazine)



## How was the team building?

The festival comprised **two stages of volunteer involvement**, which implied creating the calendar of activities, planning the events, providing the logistics and implementing them.

Each of the phases started with a team building session which helped to bring the teams together and get them closer to the FITT staff.

Sibel Polat details in the first issue of Youth Summer Fest magazine some of the team building activities she participated in:

### Human Bingo

The participants were given a checklist that included specific questions like 'Do you have siblings?' etc. and they started to walk around the space and ask each other the questions. It gave us a great chance to get to know each other.

We were divided into two groups and each group had to find a way to protect an egg thrown from the first floor of the Youth House.

### Egg Protection

### Building towers with pasta and marshmallows

Yes we did! It was a nice game for collaborating and working in solidarity. We exchanged ideas while building the tower.

Mostly it was easy for me to write down my colleagues' names based on their pronunciation but Turkish names were difficult for others. For instance Işıksu, Sezin.

### Spelling the names



# What events have we organised?

August // Timișoara & Lugoj



- Water party (Central Park)
- Multi-Culti party (Lugoj Youth Centre)
- Pyroblast & ALLjazzisOVER concert (Behind the house)

August  
**6**

August  
**12**

- International Youth Day: conference, consultations with youth, workshops and concert (Youth House)

- Youth fair: face painting, open stage for participants, karaoke, Gincana carnival, info stand, Re-fashion, theatrical improvisation (Botanic Park)

August  
**13**

**August**

**19**

- Art yourself (Dâmbovița Youth Centre)
- Escape room (Lipovei Youth Centre)
- Treasure hunt (Start: Anton von Scudier Central Park)

**August**

**20**

- Rainy jam (Youth House)

**August**

**22**

- Cultural market (Aradului Youth Centre)
- Festimișoara: art&craft, henna tattoos, theatrical improvisation (Dacia Youth Centre)
- Karaoke & chill (Circumvalațiunii Youth Centre)

- Let's LuGOj (Lugoj Youth Centre)
- Chill zone: board games (Dacia Youth Centre)
- Life in colours: painting on clothes and bags (Aradului Youth Centre)

**August**

**23**



**August**

**24**

- Cozy Craft (Dacia Youth Centre)
- Challenge your instincts (Youth House and Behind the House)

**August**

**25**

- Auăleu presents the Farm (St. Gheorghe Square)

**August**

**26**

- Language&chill (Martirilor Youth Centre)
- Young people like to move (Dâmbovița Youth Centre)
- Hands on canvas (Lipovei Youth Centre)
- Cover UP concert (Behind the house)

**August**

**27**

- Sports tournament (Regina Maria Park)

**August**

**28**

- Bal Pop: cultural fair (Youth House)

# Grassroots experiences

## What did the entertainment look like during the festival?

Excerpts from an article by Inès Adnot in the fourth issue of Youth Summer Fest magazine.



Generally, the days start with **little games** to provide a creative atmosphere and a good harmony between the different teams. **Our role** is not only to organize and promote events but also to listen to everyone, share ideas and find a way to apply them. To achieve/reach our goal, each member is given several responsibilities, from editing a magazine to scheduling sports and cultural activities.

The particularity of the Youth Summer Fest lies in the mix and the heterogeneity of the volunteers involved; each of them brings something from their own culture and perspective.

Our job is to think about all probabilities: how many participants? What kind of participants? Do they speak English, Romanian, or both? How to be a good facilitator? What to do if the weather is not good? How many spaces do we have?



Being a volunteer is not only about enjoying the final events but also the whole process which teaches us many things.



# Intercultural evenings

Excerpts from previous issues of Youth Summer Fest.

Intercultural night was, in short, an occasion to taste, dance, and learn about cultures from all around the world. Everyone feels happier when they see a smile on others' faces. Despite the fact that everyone had unique lives, cultures, and traditions, we were all able to discover many things in common and easily enjoy ourselves under one roof.

Nisanur Epli



**The party was a big celebration of differentness**, but we were all part of the same team. With posters, writing workshops and a load of food plus of course some wicked dances, our celebratory vibe was spread. Very talented Romanian people closed the night. A beautiful girl that could have escaped from a movie was dancing with fire and made it look like **magic thunder** was moving in front of us. People stared at it with open eyes of fascination.

Kiki Rewinkel

**Being a part of FITT is incredible to me.** Apart from getting to know new people, I got a chance to learn about their cultural backgrounds, and that was super cool!

**I don't think I would have been able to find this sort of event** on my own if I had not stepped out of my comfort zone to live in this new place in such a big international community!

Firdaows Chesamae





# Freeze mob: a manifestation of youth

On Timisoara City Day we organized a peaceful freeze flashmob to raise awareness about the importance of youth involvement in the community.

Here are a few moments captured by Kiki Rewinkel in the second issue of Youth Summer Fest:



There were people who turned cardboard boxes into plates. Ready to be edited. Paint was tampered on them. Body parts and clothing were sometimes also painted, although that was not actually the plan. They were filled with texts that were humorous (intended). One sentence was more successful than the other.

Some of the paint didn't hit the board though. It 'decorated' our arms, legs, clothes and bags.

*The mood and personality of the maker became visible.*



The yellow vests were our instructors and tour guides.

The group was huge, so every pedestrian crossing and every other crosswalk separated us.

The whistles were also not heard everywhere. So there were a number of funny incidents where part of the group moved on automatically, while the other half froze neatly.

I can return with a smile to this day, which seemed to last forever.



# The Water Party

Excerpts from an article written by Lucas Garcia Manoso in the second issue of the Youth Summer Fest magazine.

**The Dracoolos and Cocoloco teams left the competition aside for a day to plan a water party in Timisoara's Central Park. To create a playful scenario, they organised activities such as aquaplaning, hunger games and various sports.**



From the start of the event, volunteers summoned their inner child as a water fight aroused. Volunteers picked up water guns, balloons, water bottles and anything they could get their hands on to throw water at each other. A fun environment started to build up, catching the eyes of local people and provoking them to come close.



Young souls from the park joined in, chatted with us and enjoyed the evening, surrounded by several young people from different countries.



# VIBE CHECK WITH VOLUNTEERS

## FITT IS A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

Excerpt from an article written by Selwan Esmat in the third issue of the Youth Summer Fest magazine.



Each of us has his own way of life, but not everyone can enjoy being alone. Some of us enjoy being with the family and some of us enjoy being with friends. **But with FITT, it's different.**

FITT makes it different. You travel alone, but you meet strangers, and in time you discover that they have become good companions, perhaps even family. For example, when I arrived in Timisoara for the first time, I felt that it was completely different from my country: the weather, the people, the language, everything was different, but different in a good way. When they welcomed me in the dormitory with warm smiley faces, I thought “what a great start”.

The time and place also make a difference in our comfort while traveling. **Timisoara** is a beautiful city with friendly and conservative people at the same time, and a summer atmosphere that makes you feel refreshed.



# TOWARDS YOUTH INTEGRATION AND THOUGHT DEVELOPMENT

Excerpt from an article written by Hany George in the fourth issue of the Youth Summer Fest magazine.

Youth integration stemming from a love of cooperation and innovative thought is the basis for the success of teamwork, based on looking at different cultures and learning new traditions and customs from different countries.

A human being that grew up in an environment different from another individual's environment in thought, traditions and customs, if he's being able to see the human soul in all its forms and deep details, then there will be understanding, cooperation, harmony.

Young people develop by taking the positives from the youth of the world and learn from them. For example: A young man from Europe learned how to make a meal from an Asian young man and vice versa. When they both return to their countries, they will re-cook it. We become cultures of the Continent of knowledge through interpersonal cooperation.

We must all set our eyes toward youth integration and thought development, from which we all benefit.







## FUN

Fun is when the time passes by and I do not notice, when I feel comfortable and do not get the notion of time.

Celia, Spain



## DEVELOPMENT

**FITT is different:** in this volunteering organization, they combine work with fun in an incredible way, so that you develop yourself and others, yet you do not feel that you were working.

# FITT is a kind of happiness you wish would never end

Excerpts from an article written by Selwan Esmat in the fourth issue of the Youth Summer Fest magazine.



## VOLUNTEERING

Even if you repeat this volunteering experience a hundred times, every time you will feel as if it is the first time. Exactly like love.



## FITT EXPERIENCE

But what makes volunteering with FITT so special is the staff. Or maybe the activities they are providing. Or maybe it is the company and the friends that you will meet.



# SAYING GOODBYE

by Kiki Rewinkel



It feels like I stamped three months of adventure in six weeks. **I'm tired, happy and fulfilled, and absolutely detest having to leave.**

Maybe I will return. I have left my heart in Timisoara. It was also stolen by a sweet boy who was riding in that city. It was fantastic, but also an emotional rollercoaster. I would love to make another ride.



I will also miss all the reflective moments to put these adventures in my memory.

Like reading on the terrace. When I would look up from my book I would meet the glittery dark black eyes of the cat. We would stare at each other.

**I feel at home, but my bus won't wait, that's for sure. The ticket is booked. There's no way back. Only forwards...**

So I will miss my roommates, the Youth Centre, the pack of wolves and the conqueror of my heart. My body feels hammered and broken, but my bucket with memories has collected many juicy moments.





**serenemek**  
Timisoara, Romania



4/10



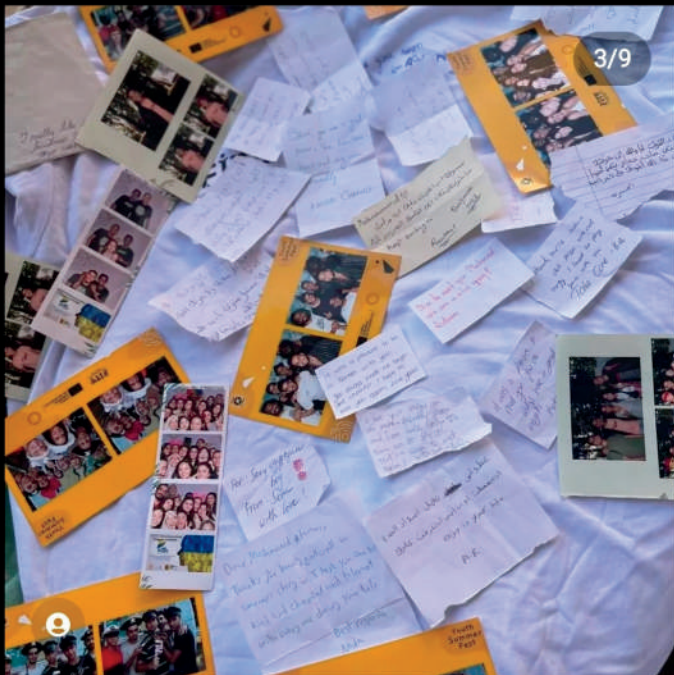
Liked by **cristianghel00** and **90 others**

**serenemek** Timisoara highlights; casa tineretului, our events, team synergia, intercultural nights 🇷🇴, many goodbye to the people whom you enjoyed a lot together 💖 and our loveliest profi which we will never forget 💖 Thank you for the days we spent together, I will miss you all 💖💖 @boluprojectoffice @fitt\_timisoara



**mahmoud\_atwany**

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3/9



157 likes

**mahmoud\_atwany** Best people make best memories 💖💖

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**abdullah\_baahr** Miss u already brother 💖



**Conclusion: we look forward to the next edition!**



Comments



**gulbaharmuslugill**  
Casa Tineretului Timisoara



1/9



Liked by **giorgiatorcia** and **others**

**gulbaharmuslugill** Amazing summer with @fitt\_timisoara and great energetic young people 🧑🧑🧑🧑 #youthcentersup #casatineretului #magiafitt #fitttimisoara



**budayev.senan**  
Timisoara

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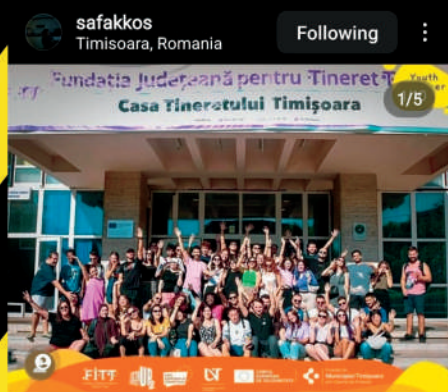


127 likes

**budayev.senan** Beləcə ilk erasmus+ layihəmi bitirmiş oldum. Könüllülük təcrübəsini avropada etməyim mənə gözəllətilərimdən də çoxunu qatdı. 30dan çox ölkədən 150dən çox insanla 22 gün eyni layihədə olmaq möhtəşəm praktika oldu mənim üçün. Hamınızı çox sevirəm 💖- Madmallows 🍷🍷

That's how I finished my first Erasmus+ project. My volunteering experience in Europe has given me more than I expected. Being in the same project for 22 days with more than 150 people from more than 30 countries was a great practice for me. I love you all so much 💖- Madmallows 🍷🍷



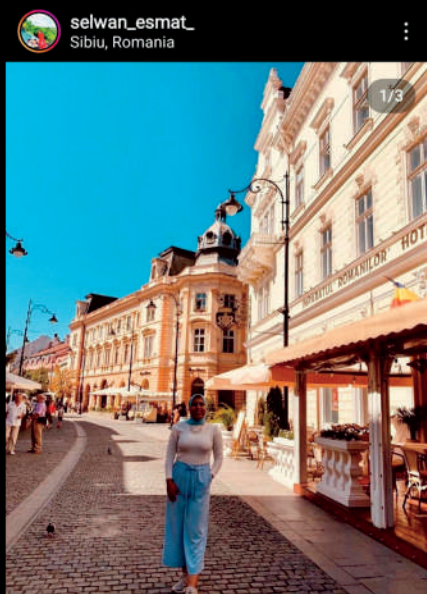


100 likes

**safakkos** My first experience in volunteering project. I had amazing time. It provided me some abilities and experiences. Thanks for everything @fitt\_timisoara

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**fitt\_timisoara** Thank you for being part of our story ❤️



2 likes

**selwan\_esmat\_** Dear Romania 🇷🇴 and FITT I Love You ❤️

Funny how I might've had the last laugh with some of my friends whom I might not see in the foreseeable future - nonetheless, I am grateful for all of this.  
I am grateful for all the hellos and those tearful goodbyes,

I do not say Goodbye, I just say Hello to my next new adventure and tell myself to buckle up for one hell of a ride! 🌱  
@fitt\_timisoara @youthcentresup



2 likes

**abikx** Liked by **nadiatmn** and 16 others  
Ahorra si, después de un largo año puedo decir que esta experiencia ha sido increíble. Esto es solo una muestra de la primera etapa en la que conecté con gente increíble, comimos como una familia, viajamos, festejamos. Gracias por todo lo aportado y por todas las lecciones aprendidas.  
@fitt\_timisoara @youthcentresup

Now yes, after a long year I can say that this experience has been amazing. This is just a sample of the first stage in which I connected with amazing people, we ate as a family, we travelled, we partied. Thank you for everything you've contributed and for all the lessons learned.  
@fitt\_timisoara @youthcentresup



100 likes

**cagla\_tezz** Liked by **seymencn** and 110 others

**cagla\_tezz** I still can't believe how much we had memories all together in 1.5 months. This 1.5 months was the best time in my life, thank u for being part of this.

I will miss;

@albbamon's glass of wine-coke,  
Going to Profi at 4 am to buy cider,  
Falling asleep on the stairs,  
Going to fratelli to get bracelet at 9 pm,  
Trying to do different cocktails with my besties,  
Going to the kitchen at 3 am and heating a frozen shitty pizza and try to eat it without seen by a italian boys,  
And other so many things ...

Thank u for this opportunity @fitt\_timisoara @youthcentresup @european\_youth\_eu



2 likes

**giorgiatorcia** Liked by **simi\_323** and 34 others  
**giorgiatorcia** One eye is laughing, one eye is crying.

So many pictures to post, so many things to say and so many memories to share. I can't put into words how grateful I am that I had the chance to live all of this and meet so many wonderful people.  
You truly are amazing change-makers, love all of you. 'Till we meet again, thank you and remember to drink watercola 🍷

@esc #magiaFITT #ysf #ycup2



2 likes

**seymencn** Liked by **v\_deliaaa** and 92 others

**seymencn** Some people touch your life. You all touched my life in a different ways. The time I spent with you was extremely precious and enjoyable. We laughed, we got sad, we were quarantined together, we had fun, we partied, we talked until morning and we went to Profi to buy a beer at 2 a.m. :D and more...  
We completed this ESC project together. I am very happy to have made lasting and excellent friendships. When you come to Istanbul, I will be here. I love you. 🌸

Thanks! @fitt\_timisoara @youthcentresup @european\_youth\_eu

#YSF #ESC #YCUP2 #magiaFITT #YouthSummerFest #BestSummer

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Instagram

selwan\_esmat\_  
FITT Timisoara

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Liked by [cagla\\_tezz](#) and 16 othersselwan\_esmat\_ FITT Is A Match Made in Heaven  
❤️

Each of us has his own way of life, but not everyone can enjoy alone.

FITT, it's different. FITT makes it different. You travel alone, but you meet there with strangers, and with time you discover that they have become good companions, perhaps even more as if they have become your family members  
❤️

#ycup2

Ahlem Khefacha · 1st  
HR coordinator/ HR advisor/ Junior ...  
1h · 🌐August 2022, I had the opportunity to live an amazing experience, volunteering with the European Solidarity Corps in **FITT (Timis County Youth Foundation)** organization in Romania.

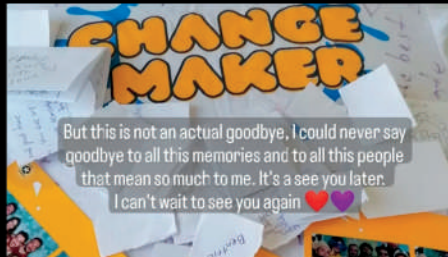
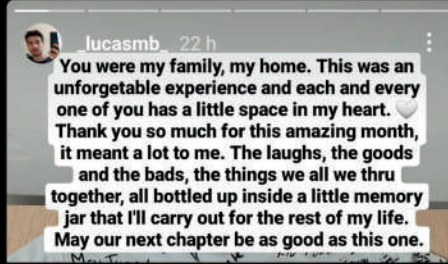
150 volunteers from 20 countries in the world (America, Africa, Asia, and Europe) gathered, planned, implemented, and promoted different activities (artistic, intercultural, sport, educational) in teams, for the youth of Timisoara and Lugoj cities.

Thank you [Anastasia Coste](#) for sharing with me this opportunity and FITT for choosing me to be one of the 150 volunteers! I am really grateful for giving me this chance of promoting the value of solidarity, the culture of peace, and nonviolence while having the chance to develop my organizational skills, emotional intelligence, and cultural competencies.**albbamon** mentioned you in a reel: Tell me now how can I turn back to my real life if I was living in a dream for the last 4 months... 🥺

Living in a palace, with a super international family 24/7 openminded like profi, with a PROFISUPER next to my palace... Is not easy to leave that place and turn back to a normal house with a normal family 😂 but I'm happy because I had this experience with all of you, my amazing people..🥰

I'm missing you everyday, thanks to Europe for make this possible, buuuut thanks to [@fitt\\_timisoara](#) because I really felt the #MAGIAFITT and now is impossible to get out this feeling, you have a piece of my heart ❤️ Thank you family, I haven't words to explain how much I love you but I think that you can understand...

Wish to see all of you again 🥺

Bilge Akpulat · 3rd+  
Long Term Project ...  
3w · Edited · 🌐

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**FITT (Timis County Youth Foundation)** welcomed us to Timisoara the great city starting the 8th of August and I'm so happy to be a part of the project and the future events we're going to create together ✨gulbaharmuslugill  
Parcul Botanic din Timișoara

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gulbaharmuslugill Hey,  
I'm Gulbahar from İstanbul, Türkiye 🇹🇷 I am very happy to be involved in this project. Thank you FITT [@fitt\\_timisoara](#) [@youthcentresup](#) 🌟🥰👍



## Nadia, project coordinator



Youth Summer Fest was, besides the context for the local community to benefit of **free, accessible activities**, the chance for the young volunteers involved to be empowered and given the freedom to initiate, implement, and evaluate an activity, **owning the process** with our support. The festival left us all with new skills, ways of working, good memories and new friends. This first edition was the perfect way to mark the **European Year of Youth**, and from now on, we can only expect it to be better and better, so stay tuned!

## Alex, volunteer coordinator

It was nice to see so many young people from different countries around the world come together with the goal of making **an unforgettable summer and festival** for the community in Timișoara and Lugoj. My hope is that next year we will reach even more people in this city and around the county.



## Anastasia, marketing coordinator

Youth Summer Fest has been **the most powerful learning experience** for me since I worked in FITT. Finding ways in which the volunteers feel involved and valued was my greatest goal, and it prepared me for what is to come in the next edition of the festival.



## Adrian, logistics coordinator

A lot of effort, but also success. It gives me joy to know that we organised events with a lot of international volunteers and that **everyone left their mark** on this wonderful project. I have pretty much raised the stakes this year and can't wait to do even better next year.





This magazine was created during  
Youth Summer Fest. For more  
information, please access

**[www.fitt.ro](http://www.fitt.ro)**

*Youth Summer Fest is part of the Youth Centres UP 2 project and is implemented with the support of the West University of Timișoara and with funding from the European Solidarity Corps and the Municipality of Timișoara through the Projects Centre.*