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THE UNITED FITTERS

OF

**YOUTH
SUMMER
FEST**

1-30 AUGUST

*This is the magazine of **Youth Summer Fest**: an international project hosted by Timis County Youth Foundation (FITT), that brings together young people from the world, eager to create activities for the citizens of Timisoara and Lugoj during the month of Youth (August).*

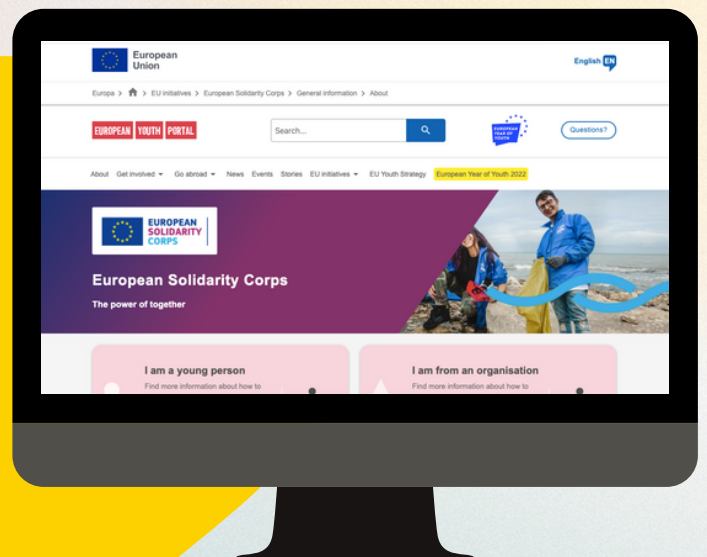
WHAT WILL YOU FIND IN THE FIRST NUMBER OF THIS MAGAZINE?

1. Coming to Romania: how and why I applied to Youth Summer Fest; what cultural differences I observed (by Fatma Buyukcoskun)
2. The team building activities (by Sibel Polat)
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Coming to Romania: how and why I applied to this project?

Accessing volunteering and similar projects for our generation born with servers on their head is usually made through internet. There are two main websites that I check for applying for these kind of projects:

- **European Solidarity Corps:** we fill in our profile, and afterwards we are ready to apply for lots of projects around the world. (europa.eu)
- **Salto:** here you can usually find training courses. (salto-youth.net)



EXTRA TIP:

YOU CAN FIND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS LIKE [ERASMUSGRAM](#) OR [EUYOUTH](#).

Why Youth Summer Fest?

After applying for numerous projects and knowing details surely, Youth Summer Fest was one of the most outstanding projects since it brings about 200 people together from different countries and cultures, and those will prepare activities for locals.

I thought that this concept and being part of this project would be an awesome summer plan.



Cultural differences: Romania vs Turkey

We can not indicate exactly that there are enormous cultural differences between Turkey and Romania.

Romanians are friendly: they try to help without hesitation when you ask for aid. After a rich cuisine in Turkey, unfortunately we could not encounter in Romania a wide range of options. Yet, Chicken Soup A La Grec is worth trying around the student complex.

Another difference is related to one of the main elements of culture, which is **music**. We have observed that in Romania people enjoy mostly listening to songs in Romanian language instead of English songs. They try to maintain their culture, and that is a good attitude against pop-culture.



Tradition



Chicken Soup
A La Grec



People

The team building activities

The team-building activities usually include games and activities designed to get groups of people working together towards a common goal.

These activities are effective to create a friendly environment, increase collaboration and provide solidarity in teams.

There are several games and activities we played while building the teams:

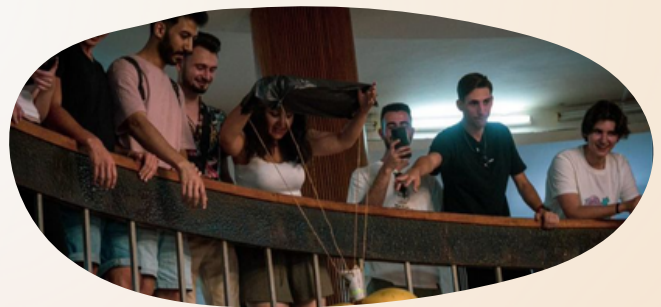
1. **Spelling the names:** Mostly it was easy for me to write down my colleagues' names based on their pronunciation but Turkish names were difficult for others. For instance Işıksu, Sezin.



2. 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.



3. Egg Protection: We were divided into two groups and each group had to protect their egg while falling from the first floor. We all tried to find materials to protect our eggs and yes, we succeeded. This is the result:



4. 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 great chance to get to know each other.



What team do you support?

THE DRACULOS

Originally named Egg of Dutie, the Draculos changed their name due to personal preference and conflict avoidance. Regardless their dark themed and enigmatic name, Draculos are known for their positive energy, good vibes and cool attitude.

However, at night, the legend says that Draculo members meet to engage in a ritual that might result in a group bat transformation.



Team led by the Italian vampire Mickie



COCOLOCO GANG

Known for their team cohesion, limitless energy and sense of community, Cocolocos are a kind and calm breed by nature. When in need of rest, they will rest. However, under stress circumstances, they may react boldly and impulsively.

In order to gather all members, Cocolocos will always find each other using their unique and original call: A member will shout Coco! Cocoloco Gang will reply: Loco!

Formed by team leaders Alba and Giorgia

THE WEREWOLVES

They are a pack. They stick together and never leave one of their kind behind. The legend says that in full moon, team members meet in the streets of Timisoara to share intercultural information and promote european values. The Werewolves have a gathering chant which they may use in times of need.



Team led by the local team leader Silviu

-In times of challenge you can cut the tension with a knife-

Discovering Timisoara and Lugoj

One of the main **advantages** of the project is that it introduces the interesting places of Romania. In addition to the city of **Timisoara**, we also visited **Lugoj**.

It was relatively small, but there were many places to see. The city, with its **historic buildings** and **European design**, was very attractive to foreign volunteers. The monument built for those who died in The II World War caught my attention. It was a heroic monument of the city. The **historical churches**, monuments and the magnificent river were **unforgettable** for me.



The Youth House of Timisoara has all kinds of facilities for young people: seminar rooms, lounge, backyard, table tennis etc. It used to be a gym here. But later it became a vaccination centre and a shelter for Ukrainians. This is an indication of the **hospitality** of the Romanian people.

There were also paintings in different styles in this centre. We can easily watch movies and concerts. It is an **ideal place** to spend our free time.

The international night

On Friday we enjoyed an international night in which a feast for the taste buds had been created, thanks to ISWinT.

The participating students, which represented many countries, let us taste the most delicious dishes, cookies and desserts.

Some people performed impressive national dances in beautiful costumes. I still don't know which country the tradition belongs to, but that's part of the magic of this special evening.



Everything fitted together wonderfully well: the lights started flashing, the music got louder, the feet went off the floor to well-known and totally new tunes...

The wallflowers among us were chatting on the stairs at the entrance of the youth centre. **Stories were exchanged under a beautiful starry sky.**

There was astonishment about differences and similarities between the countries. Here and there a flirty remark was heard and numbers were exchanged.

Overall it was a fantastic evening. We exchanged food, drinks, traditions and in some cases even kisses.



The flags' parade



In the distance you could already feel the thump of the music. Next to the refectory of the university, the flag parade started by ISWinT quickly got going. Shopping carts with jukeboxes rolled past your feet in quick succession. Uplifting music like Wavin' Flag (which fitted very well with the message of the parade) were played at high volume by these moving colossuses.

In the beginning there were clear groups. Divided by T-shirt colour, a clearly ordered running sea started moving. Everyone looked for familiarity for a moment. The arms were crocheted in those of an acquaintance and they carefully sang along in their own group.

Fortunately, traffic lights, cyclists and instructions to walk quickly turned it into a pleasant chaos. I ended up walking next to strangers. Flags were sometimes a mystery. A good example of this was the flag of Hong Kong, as it had elements of the British flag. This curiosity led to an exchange of experiences.

Hi!



Questions, experiences and prejudices were poured out over the audience with many hand gestures and great variation in intonation...

There was even some space to discuss the experience of the moment itself. I talked to a German student from ISWinT, who had another student carry the German flag.

I know that uncomfortable feeling. Dutch history is less controversial than German history, but I also felt very uncomfortable with the flag in my hand.

The last times the Dutch flag was carried by ordinary people was during riots. The flag often appears at sad events, such as commemoration of the dead. Whether it concerns confrontations between farmers and police or between right and left, it really has nothing to do with the flag. It's just a means. Today it was a means of celebrating togetherness. In addition, the flag is also hang out on the mast on King's Day with pride.

So I swing it four times and ignore the feeling in my gut. I am not a rioter, but a citizen of the world claiming her own place.





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

www.fitt.ro

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