

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

IN IOANNINA,
GREECE

OPPORTUNITIES
WITH YC EPIRUS



EPIRUS
ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΝΕΩΝ

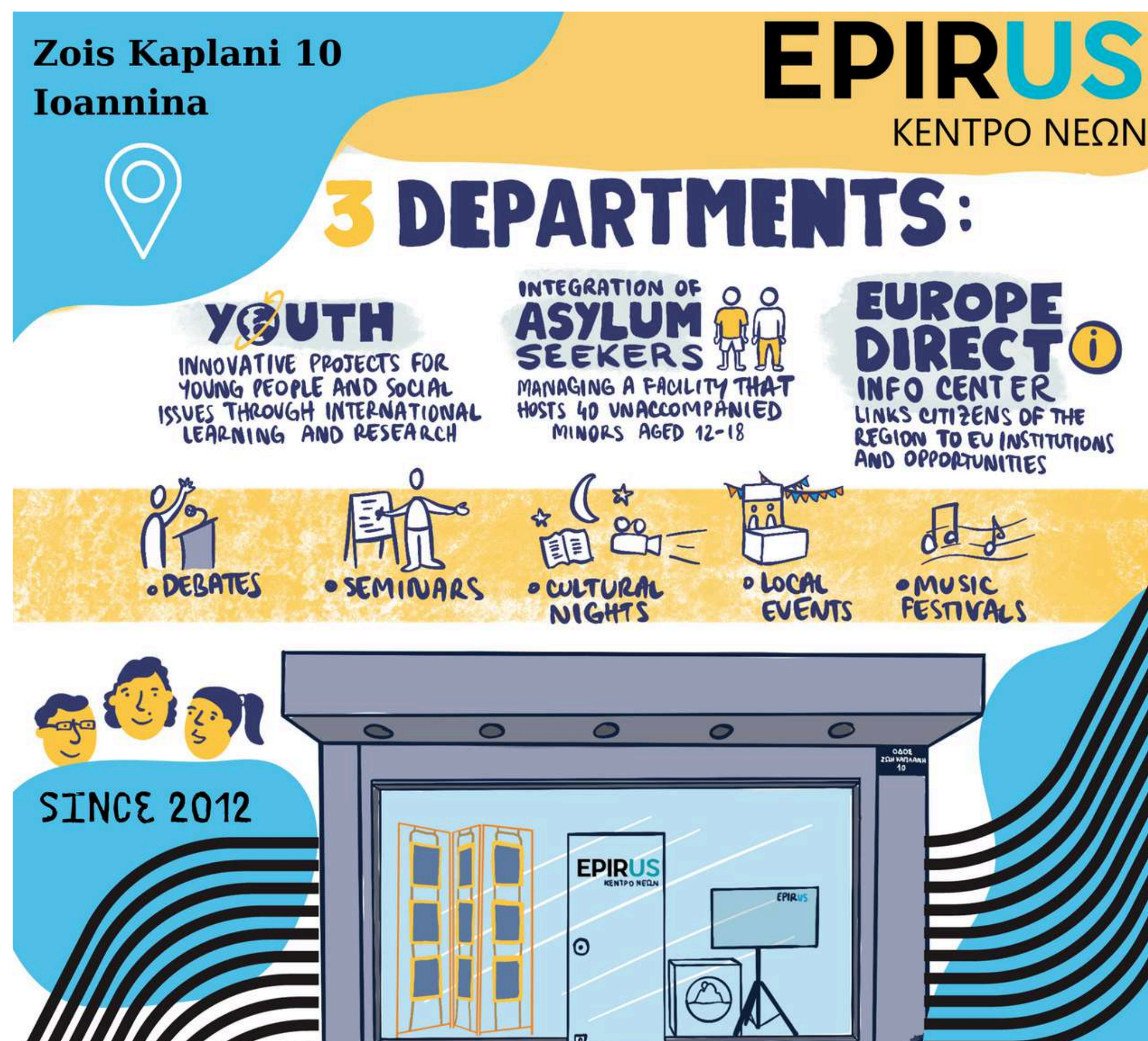
YOUTH CENTER OF EPIRUS

The Youth Center of Epirus (YC Epirus) is a non-profit organisation located in Ioannina, in the heart of the Epirus region, Greece. It hosts departments of young adult non-formal education and asylum seeker integration. The organisation is internationally certified for Support Services for the Improvement of Citizen's Lives and the Upgrading of General Living Conditions, by the International Organization for Standardization and has received Certification as a provider of Primary Social Care services of a non-profit nature from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

The young adult center in Kaplani 10, Ioannina is open to public during every study year. The center is an open space for all young adults who look for non-formal education, local and international opportunities. YC Epirus offers activities related to volunteerism, non-formal education, social inclusion and cultural awareness. Our international team is combined of volunteers and youth workers who offer various workshops, informative and cultural events for youth and young adults.

<https://www.yce.gr/en/>





YC Epirus organizes and participates also in international educational projects such as youth exchanges, training courses, seminars, as well as voluntarism, research and capacity building projects under the Erasmus+, CERV, and European Solidarity Corps programmes. In addition, the place hosts Europe Direct Information Center where regional society can receive information related to EU opportunities, grants, citizen rights, etc.

YC Epirus asylum seeker integration department operates a local project that provides accommodation, integration, health care, educational and other support to young asylum seekers in Epirus region.

IOANNINA

Set on the western shore of the lovely Lake Pamvotis, Ioannina is one of northern Greece's most atmospheric cities, and one of its more cultured and wealthy, as it was famous throughout the Ottoman Empire for its silver artisans. The walls of its old fortified city, the Kastro, enclose a tranquil quarter, spiked with minarets, and an island in the lake is a quiet, car-free escape. At sunset the lake turns silver and the impressive mountains behind turn lilac. Ioannina is a beautiful place in every season.

The strong cultural traditions of the town, home to a number of great novelists and poets, and the artistic and intellectual events which are organized throughout the year, give visitors the opportunity to get to know the roots of the intellectual life of Epirus.

Ioannina was always multicultural, dominated mainly by Christian, Islamic and Jewish influences. This coexistence of cultural influences is clearly evident in the historic city centre.





SUPPORT FROM THE HOSTING AND COORDINATING ORGANISATION

**Reimbursed travel
costs, visa and
health insurance**

**Shared
accommodation
and
transportation to
the activity venue**

**Monthly financial
support for food,
pocket money**

**Individual support
during preparation
and integration**


**Training sessions
on all activity
related themes**

**Weekly individual
and group tutoring.
Mentor for support
with local life**



PROFILE OF THE VOLUNTEER

- At least 22 years old.
- Fluent in spoken English.
- Autonomous and very responsible.
- Ready to propose ideas and lead activities, able to take initiatives.
- Being able to work in a multicultural environment, very flexible.
- Genuine interest in youth work, social and educational topics.
- Previous experience working with teenagers or asylum seekers, or in relevant youth work activities if applying for the Activity II.
- Previous experiences in creating and leading small events if applying for the Activity I.
- No criminal record.




CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIVITY I

Within this activity, we continue our approach to integrating international voluntarism in the local young adult activity sector of our organisation.

Volunteers would help to run the youth center, offer weekly activities to young adults, plan and manage small-scale events, assist with the work on large-scale events, if planned by the organisation, and work on online content creation on social or cultural heritage themes, addressed to local young adults (video making, photography, podcast, etc). They would be working individually and possibly in teams, in daily cooperation with a youth activity coordinator. Depending on daily needs, they would be helping with other various tasks at the youth office.





**Generation
of ideas**

**Online content
creation (video,
photography, etc.)**

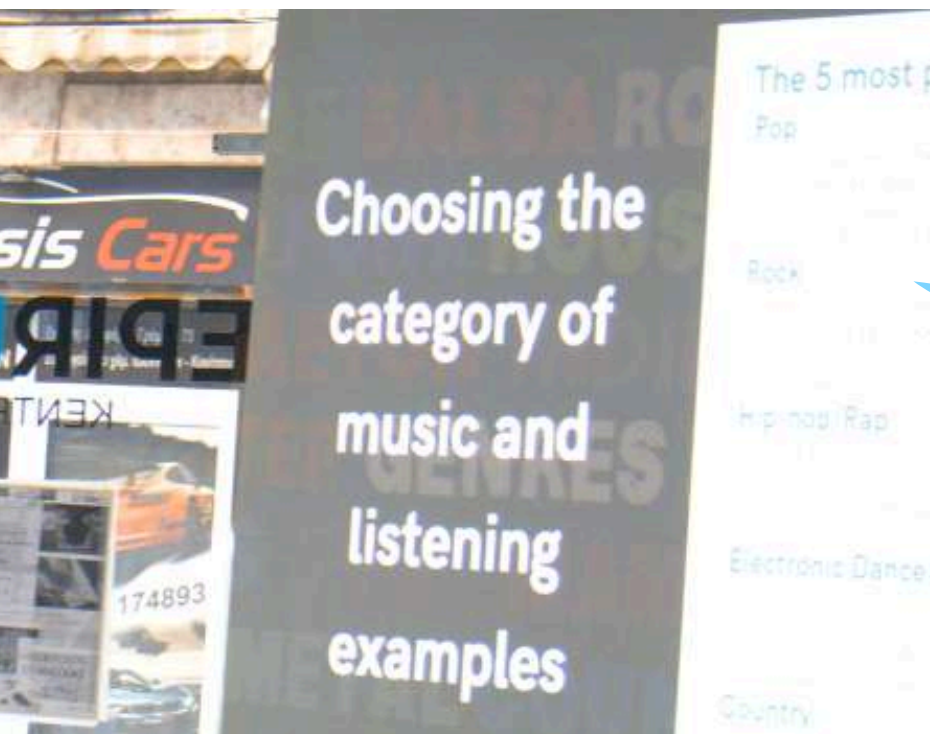
Workshops

Events

**Supporting
various needs of
the Youth
department office**

Social media

**All these tasks would be done with support from Youth
Activity Coordinator on daily basis**



We expect that participants will discover or develop their passions and skills because of the exposure to youth work, non formal education, cultural awareness and social issues. During the various types of tasks, participants will learn how to work with young adults and how to reflect on and address youth social issues. We expect that participants will experience a rise of their social awareness and responsibility, increase their digital skills, and gain a higher appreciation and experience in using non-formal education with young adults, apart from other activity-related skills.



ACTIVITY II

The volunteers will support the Youth and Asylum Seeker departments of our organisation.

Participants will volunteer at the accommodation facility for unaccompanied male asylum seekers aged 12 to 17. The facility is coordinated by our organisation since 2020 and is located in Perama village near Ioannina. The volunteers will work in a team with other volunteers to plan, prepare, implement, and report non-formal educational and recreational activities for the asylum seekers at the facility, for a few hours every day.

Moreover, they will be working at our office daily and get engaged in individual or pair research and digital content production about topics relevant to asylum seekers, therefore being actively involved in civic life and promoting awareness about the humanitarian crisis which affects the whole of Europe and not only.





We expect that participants will discover new interests and views due to exposure to social issues, humanitarian and social work. Through all types of activities which will occur during the project, participants will learn the ways to work with children and youth, with not well defended part of society and in general to access the situation and needs of community. The project aims to help the participants to grow as social personalities, to rise their level of social responsibility, improve their understanding of dangers of marginalization of asylum seekers and worldwide political and migration processes. It is important to note that this activity can be emotionally demanding due to the conditions - activities will have to be adapted to a large language gap and the circumstances of the daily life and rules at the facility - a lot of flexibility will be required.



APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

You can find our organisation on the European Youth Portal and apply through there. For a quicker application, you can also apply by sending your CV and motivation letter to y.c.epirus@gmail.com, or through your sending organisation. Applicants must clearly indicate to which of the two activities they apply. Staff members of our Youth department will contact you within a few days if we have an open vacancy and if your profile matches to the volunteer we are looking for!

It is important to read this document carefully and confidently choose and apply to one of the activities - to the one that suits the best to your skills and interests.

Afterwards, the applicant will enter into a selection process in which they will have 2 online interviews and, of course, learn more details about the activities.

For further information related to the vacancies don't hesitate to contact us.



Before applying, you can read our previous volunteer experiences on our website: <https://www.yce.gr/en/international-volunteers/>

“I find myself writing these first lines wrapped in the dense and fragrant air of the Greek summer, just over a week after my arrival in Ioannina. Every day here is an emotional and creative storm, the desire to do and the enthusiasm are many, and ideas crowd my head, fervent by a renewed vital drive. With every smile of the boys, my heart bursts with joy and love, the real one, bringing to mind the reason why I am in this land so ancient, primordial, archaic mother of the West.”

-Gaia-

“Although it was a short lived project, I learned a lot about how to deal with teens and people from cultures completely different from mine.”

-Beatriz-

All the photos that are included on this document are part of content creations and daily life of our international volunteers that participated in the activities of our organisation.

