

## ABOUT CRES

Centrul Regional de Economie Socială is NGO activating the city of Craiova in South West Oltenia region of Romania. The organisation was borne out of the desire of its members to have a more structured framework through which to be able to implement activities that would lead to community development and promotion of social economy.

The mission of CRES: CRES proposes itself to empower communities regarding self-management and long-term development of social economy and public administration reform to support the EU integration process.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT

The volunteers of the HOPES II Project will be directly involved in the planning, organization and implementation of non-formal activities in educational and social institutions in the city of Craiova, activities directed towards the achievements of the project objectives.

The project is structured in 3 phases:

### 1. Phase 1 - Preparation, Adaptation and Training

During this part of the project the volunteers will:

- get the chance to better accommodate to one another
- get to better know and understand the project
- improve skills necessary for the implementation of the project
- get to know the CRES organisation and the people that they will work with
- get to know the institutions where they will work and the people who they will help during the project (the target group)
- get to know their host city of Craiova (how to orientate around the city, shopping places, free time opportunities, cultural attraction etc.)

### 2. Phase 2 - Raise social inclusion in Craiova

This project activity will be the core of the project and consists of a 9 months EVS stage for 10 volunteers who will be working on social inclusion in 3 social assistance institutions in Craiova. The activity is set to take place in

- the "Beethoven" Special High school which houses and teaches mentally disabled children and children with hearing deficits
- the "Sf. Mina" Special School which has 166 children with severe psychical, psychological or social deficits or disabilities.
- the "Sfânta Maria" social center for the elderly which is home to 28 socially assisted elderly persons

During this phase the volunteering will be involved in helping the staff of the social centers in their daily tasks but also implementing new activities that aim to stimulate the social and personal development of both the volunteers as well as improving the target groups (socially assisted persons) situation/status (contributing to social inclusion, developing personal confidence and socialization, etc) and activities aimed at improving the quality of life for these children such as providing more free time opportunities.

Types of activities to be implemented during the project:

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|---------------|---------------------------------|
| • Painting    | • Language classes              |
| • Handicrafts | • Workshops on different topics |
| • Origami     | • Sports and outdoor activities |
| • Dancing     | • Cultural presentations        |

The above mentioned activities are more as guide lines as **each volunteer has the opportunity to propose, implement and carry on new types of activities based on previous experiences, personal preferences, skills and abilities.**

The project is built upon the premises that each volunteer is an active individual willing to learn and actively contribute to improving the situation of the target group thus allowing great freedom of initiative for each volunteer to come up with new and innovative activities to implement.

Saturday and Sunday: free days

- Romanian language courses: twice per week/ 2 hours per lesson